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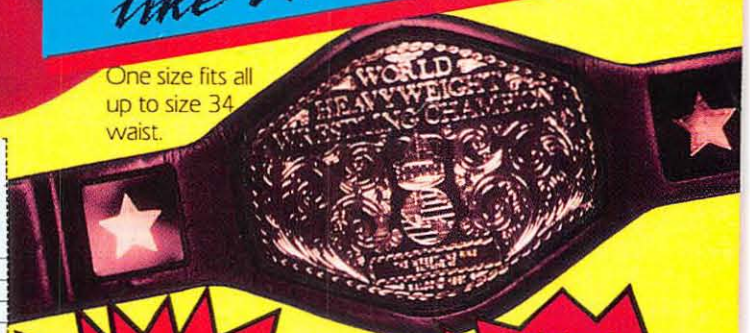

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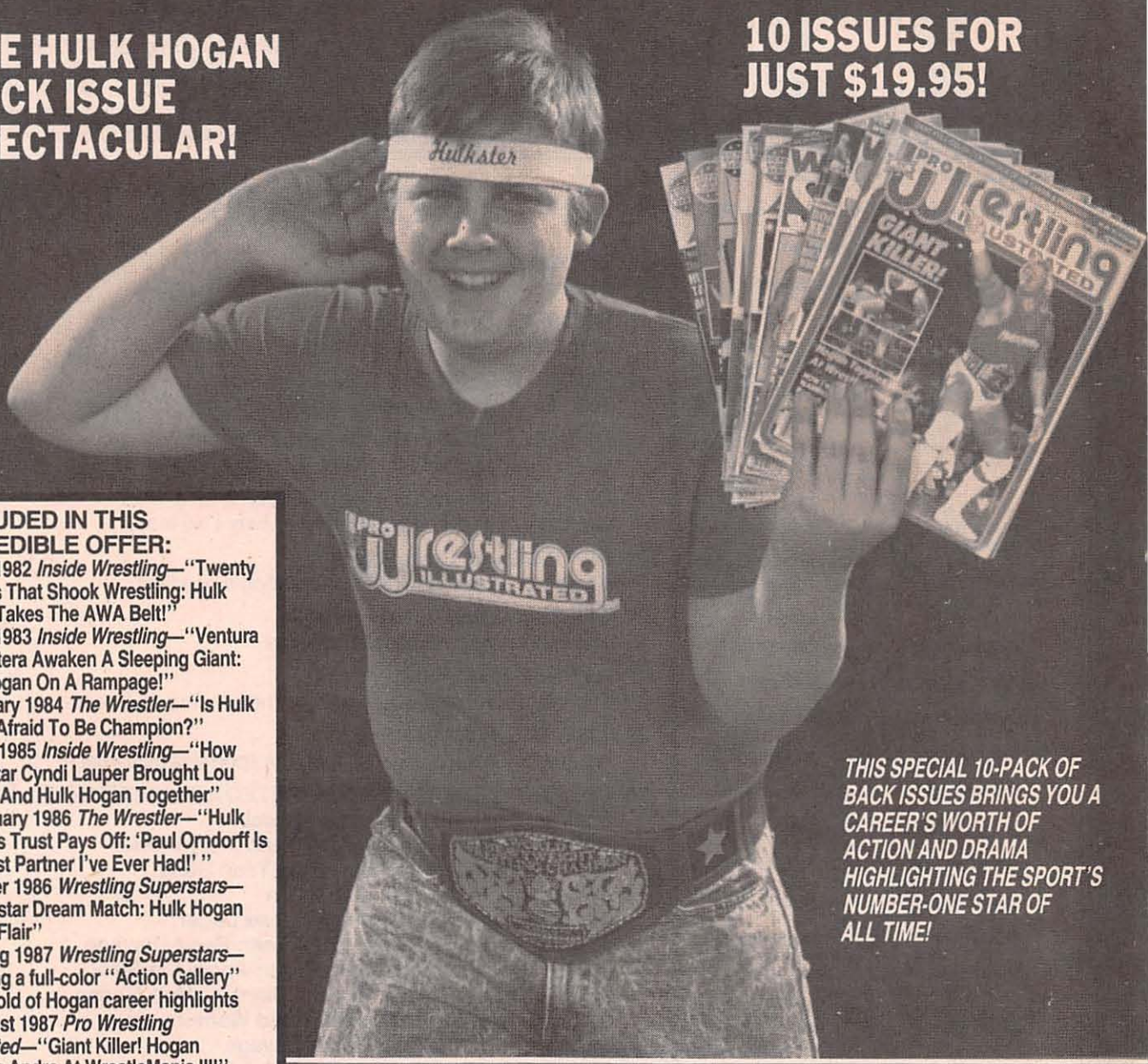

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MEGAPOWERS MANIA

I would like to comment on your January 1989 cover story ("The Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth Triangle: Will The Megawoman Destroy The Megapowers?"). The answer to that question is: of course she will!

Randy Savage must not have completed high school if he thinks that Hulk Hogan will remain by his side. Hogan has already indicated his interest in Elizabeth, an interest that I'm sure is more than just professional. If "Macho Man" remains loyal to Hogan, he will eventually get burned. I guess Savage forgot that the "Hulkster" was a rule-breaker years ago.

All the little "Hulksters" who think that Hogan is the best thing since the Easter Bunny will also get burned. Sooner or later, Hogan will turn his back on the fans just as Andre the Giant did before WrestleMania III. Hogan's turn will probably come before WrestleMania V.

So don't be fooled by Hulk Hogan. Elizabeth holds the key to the "Hulkster," and as long as she stays loyal to Savage, Hogan will remain frustrated.

CHRISTIAN KUGEL
Brenham, TX

I'm not your typical blabbering Hulk Hogan fan, but even I thought you went too far to suggest in your January 1989 issue that Hulk Hogan is only friends with Randy Savage because he wants to steal Elizabeth away from him. All your "evidence" is either circumstantial or based on the outdated misconception that Hogan has to "prove" himself to Elizabeth by being even more macho than the "Macho Man."

Sure, Hogan got a bigger hug than Savage after SummerSlam. Sure, Hogan calls Elizabeth his manager. And sure, Elizabeth's choice of attire was slightly more conservative than the "itsy-bitsy, teeny-weenie, yellow polkadot bikini" that Hogan envisioned. But all this *still* does not add up to managerial infidelity on the part of Elizabeth.

True, Hogan may turn bad once Elizabeth finally rejects him, but I'll wait for that to happen before deciding (as you obviously have already) that The Megapowers are doomed.

PAUL LIPSON
Bathgate, OK

STILL IN SHOCK

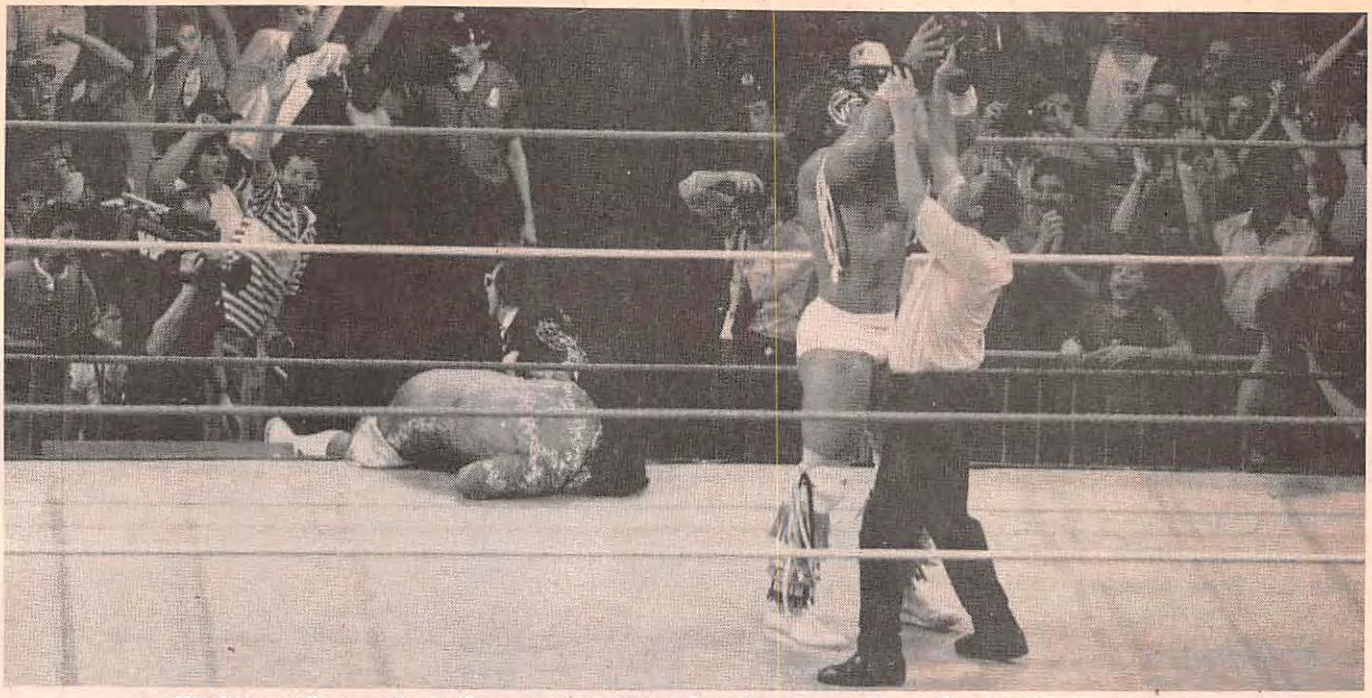
I am still in shock over The Ultimate Idiot's illegal victory over The Honky Tonk Man for the Intercontinental title. Why was it illegal, you ask? Because Warrior's name never appeared on the title-match contract!

Of course someone should have filled in for Brutus Beefcake. As soon as it was determined that "The Barber" would not be able to wrestle, however, the words "title match" should have been stricken from the program.

There is a precedent for this. A few years ago in the AWA, Rick Martel was champion. "Tricky Ricky" was supposed to face Mr. Saito in a title match. Saito was unable to make it, so Freebird Michael Hayes filled in and beat Martel. Although Martel lost the match, he kept his title because Hayes' name was not originally on the contract.

Why is the WWF situation any different? I guess the WWF felt it needed to satisfy all the idiotic females who drool over The Ultimate Warrior's biceps and pectorals. Listen, folks, any muscleheaded freak can win a match when he attacks an opponent before the bell even rings! If nothing else, Warrior should have been disqualified.

I completely disagree with that senile drunk Matt Brock who calls Pedro Morales the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time. Honky Tonk has beaten Morales



The Ultimate Warrior takes the Intercontinental title belt from the referee as Jimmy Hart helps The Honky Tonk Man out of the ring. Reader Andrew Meyer thinks the Warrior's victory was illegal.

before and he could easily do it again.

Maybe one good thing will come of this. Now The Honky Tonk Man can beat the so-called "Macho Man" for the World title. That is, if Rick Rude or Bad News Brown don't do it first.

ANDREW MEYER
Lincoln, NE

ALL TALK, NO ACTION

I might be alone in this feeling, but I really think the big bad Road Warriors are nothing more than a bunch of loudmouths who talk a good fight but just can't seem to get the job done anymore.

If they continue to think that they drove The Powers of Pain out of the NWA, they're crazy. I think we all know why Warlord and Barbarian *really* left. It was a question of money and fame. It was *not* a question of them being afraid of the Warriors.

If the Roadies really feel they can beat the Powers (or Demolition for that matter), let them come to the WWF and back up all that tough talk.

Your article in the January issue ("The Road Warriors: 'We'll Win The Belts—Or Retire!' ") was great. I only hope that this time, the Warriors abide by this pledge!

JOHN SCONDOTTO
Brooklyn, NY

THE DOG DAYS

I recently attended the first WWF card in Edmonton, Alberta. On this card, Demolition defended its WWF tag team title against The British Bulldogs. I was surprised to see the Bulldogs come to the ring without Matilda. This allowed the Bulldogs to concentrate on the match, not the safety of their mascot.

During the match, the Bulldogs totally dominated Demolition. They were well on their way to regaining the belts when Mr. Fuji interfered on Demolition's behalf. Even

(Continued on page 68)

Hawk whips Warlord across the ring. In John Scondotto's opinion, The Powers of Pain left the NWA because they wanted to be famous, not because they were afraid of the Warriors.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

THE ROAD WARRIORS' drive to their first NWA World tag team title ended on October 29 in New Orleans when they defeated **The Midnight Express**, but many people—including **Hawk**, **Animal**, and manager **Paul Ellering**—agree that the drive truly began when they attacked **Sting** three weeks earlier in Richmond, Virginia.

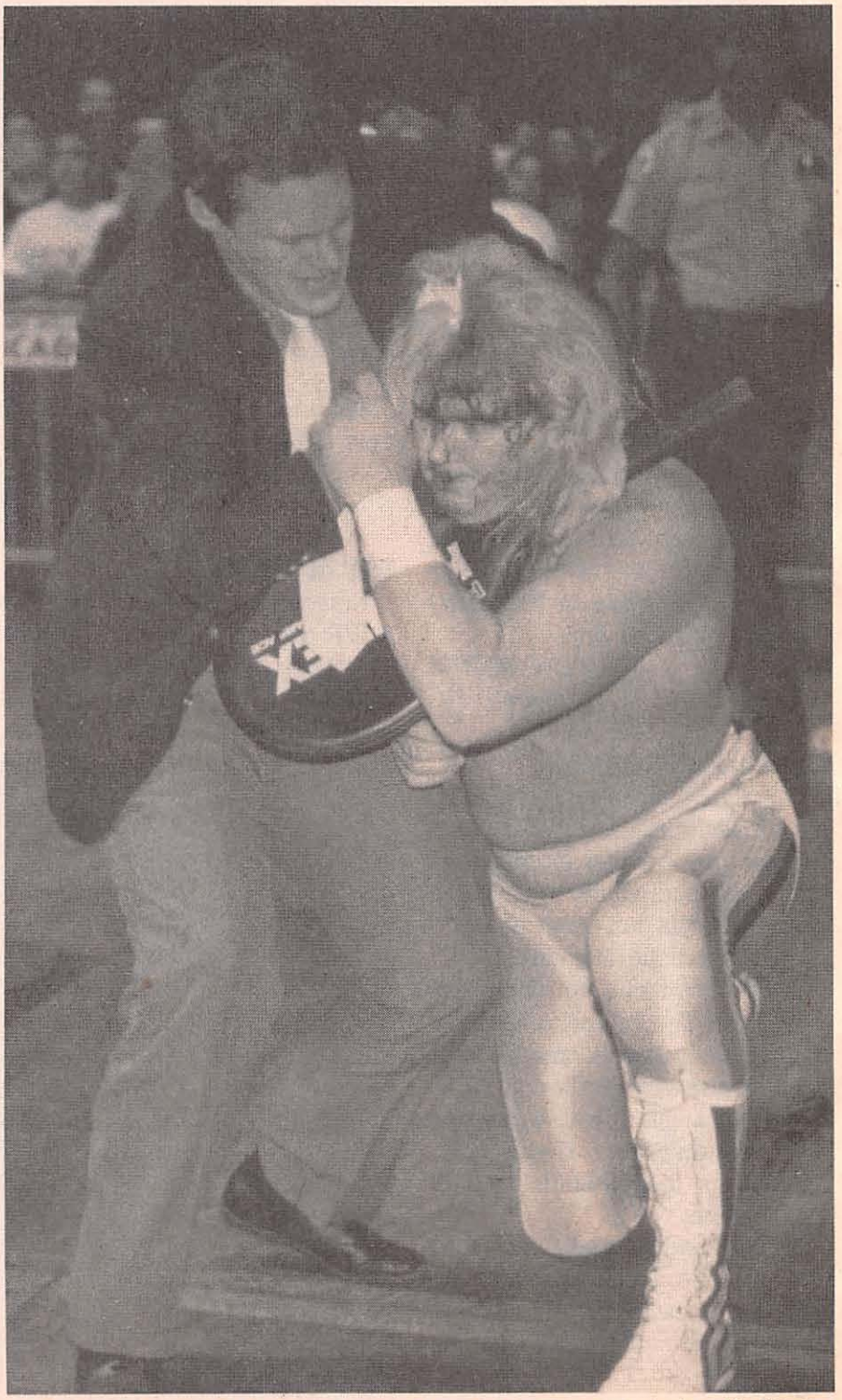
"That's when it all happened," said Ellering. "That's when 'The Legion of Doom' said, 'Enough of this crap! It's time to get down to business!' It took a while for us to realize that we could only depend on ourselves, and it took **Dusty Rhodes** and Sting to bring us to our senses. They didn't give a crap about us, so now we don't give a crap about them."

"That's right, Paul," Hawk added. "You guys say we lost our killer instinct, and you were damn right, but now we've got it back. **Jim Cornette** said that we'd have to kill all three of them to get the belts, and you'd better believe we took up the challenge. Last I saw, **Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton** were having their guts put back into place."

The Warriors didn't wait for the bell to ring to ensure that the belts would be theirs. Shortly after the Midnights entered the ring, Ellering and the Warriors stormed the ringside area. Ellering hammered Cornette on the arena floor while Hawk ran into the ring and tossed Eaton through the ropes. Hawk and Animal then repeatedly pounded Eaton, running his head into the ringpost several times.

By this time, Eaton was a bloody mess; Ellering kicked Cornette and Lane helplessly watched the blood-

(Continued on page 72)



Jim Cornette looks after Bobby Eaton, who was busted up by The Road Warriors. The Warriors went on to win the NWA World tag team title from The Midnight Express. The Warriors' turn back to pure rulebreaking was what they needed to get them the title shot.

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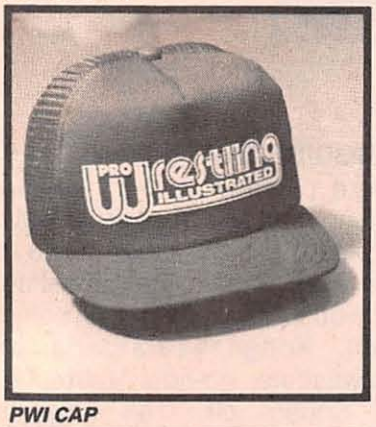

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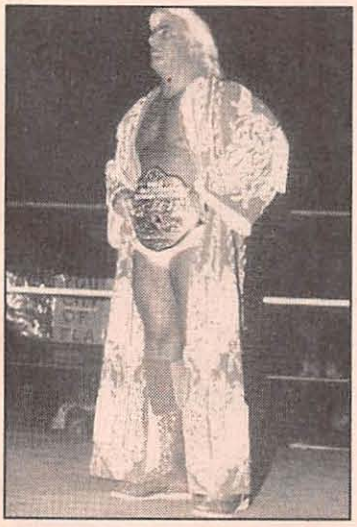

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Vince McMahon has never come right out and said it, but his long-range goal is to run the only wrestling promotion in the country. It's obvious. Every move he's ever made has been toward that end. McMahon has never been content to merely elevate the level of his organization; he's worked just as hard to deplete his competition.

Think about it. With his vast roster of wrestlers, many of whom are capable of being champions yet languish in obscurity, how important was it that McMahon secure the services of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson? The answer is simple: Tully and Arn, while talented in their own right, were not needed in the WWF. The importance of bringing them to the WWF was to take away a top draw from the NWA and, at the same time, provide some recognizable names for the WWF invasion into the heartland of the NWA.

Signing Tully and Arn was a solid business move, and McMahon has, over the years, made a lot of them. McMahon is aggressive, he's bright, he's ruthless, and he's fearless. He's a winner. He knows what he wants and, more often than not, he *gets* what he wants.

I've often been asked if I feel that Vince McMahon and the WWF will ultimately take control of the sport. It's not such a far-fetched concept. I've given the question a lot of thought over the last four years. But it seems that every time McMahon makes a big move toward domination, something happens to nudge the pendulum in the opposite direction.

In this space, exactly one year ago, I wrote about the promotional war between Vince McMahon and Jim Crockett. Well, that war will soon be escalated. Jim Crockett Promotions no longer has controlling interest in the NWA. The long-rumored acquisition of the NWA by Ted Turner has been completed (*see "Wrestling Enquirer" on page 96*). Jim Crockett is by no means out of the battle (he'll serve as vice president of the newly formed Turner Broadcasting System subsidiary Universal Wrestling Corporation), but the new general on the front lines will be Jack Petrik, WTBS' vice president of syndication and a man with 25 years' experience in the broadcast industry.

Crockett was a worthy adversary for McMahon, and he deserves a great deal of credit for preventing a WWF monopolization of the sport. He was the man who had the foresight and the guts to negotiate directly with McMahon for the re-acquisition of the TBS wrestling time slot in 1985, without which the NWA might well have been killed. But while he always had superior talent to McMahon, he didn't have McMahon's seemingly unlimited resources and couldn't legitimately compete on his level.

Ted Turner can. And if he utilizes the expertise of Crockett (the

(Continued on page 76)

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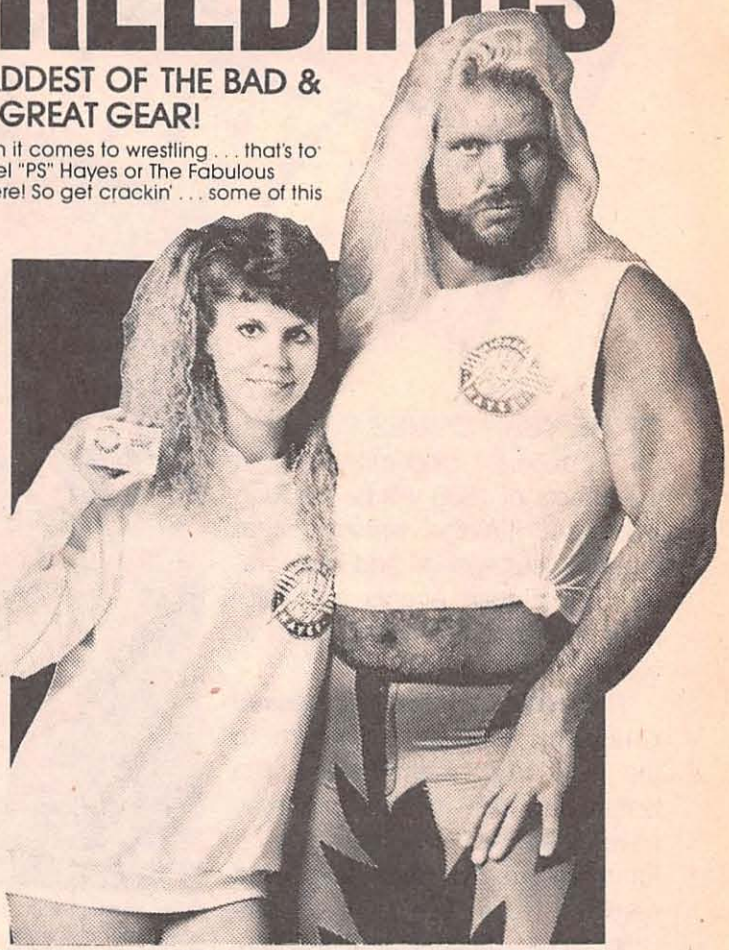

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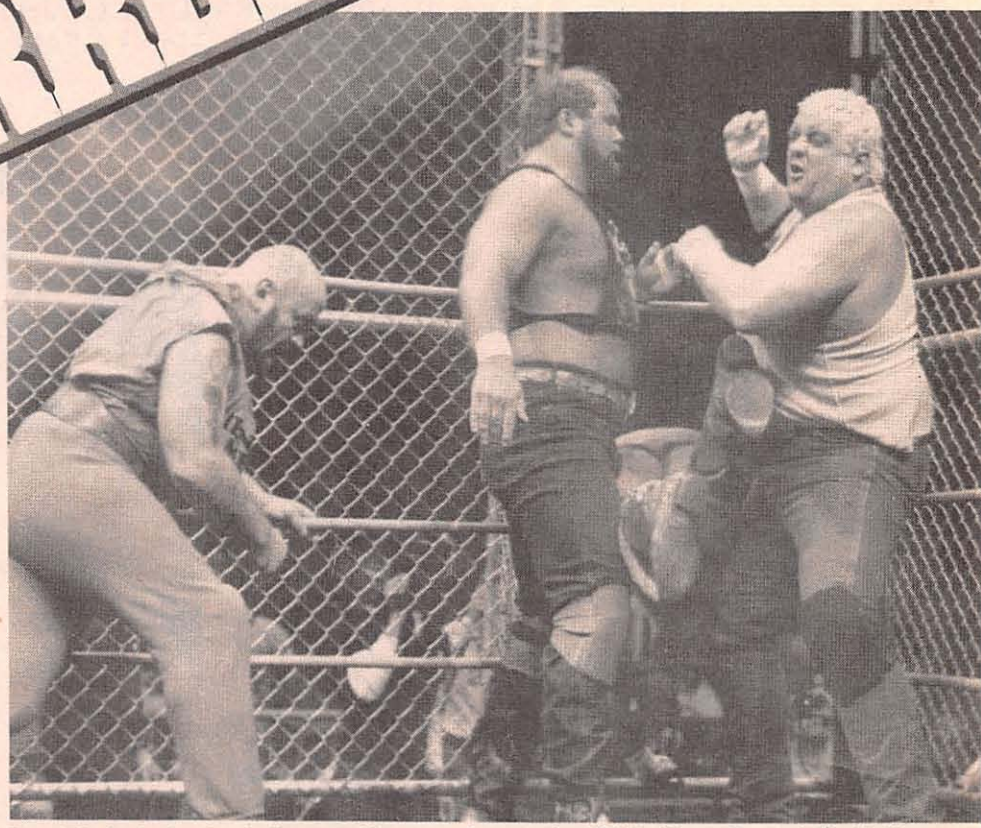
with David Rosenbaum



Dusty Rhodes battles Arn Anderson on his way to victory at the 1988 Bunkhouse Stampede final held at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York. After a promising start, the NWA's venture into the New York area failed miserably.

THE YEAR COMES to an end at midnight December 31, but the effects of 1988 will be felt long afterward. It's the wrestlers that make a year special and memorable, but certain events will influence the sport for many years to come:

The NWA fails at the Nassau Coliseum. The NWA's return to the New York metropolitan area lasted only five months and may have destroyed any hopes for a future return. Although the debut card last November drew a promising crowd, things steadily worsened. The Bunkhouse Stampede card in late January began—depending on which tickets you held—a half hour or a full hour before the time listed on the ticket! The card itself lasted barely two hours and left a sour taste in the mouths of many fans. The NWA never did recover—nor did it ever again draw over 10,000 fans to the Coliseum.

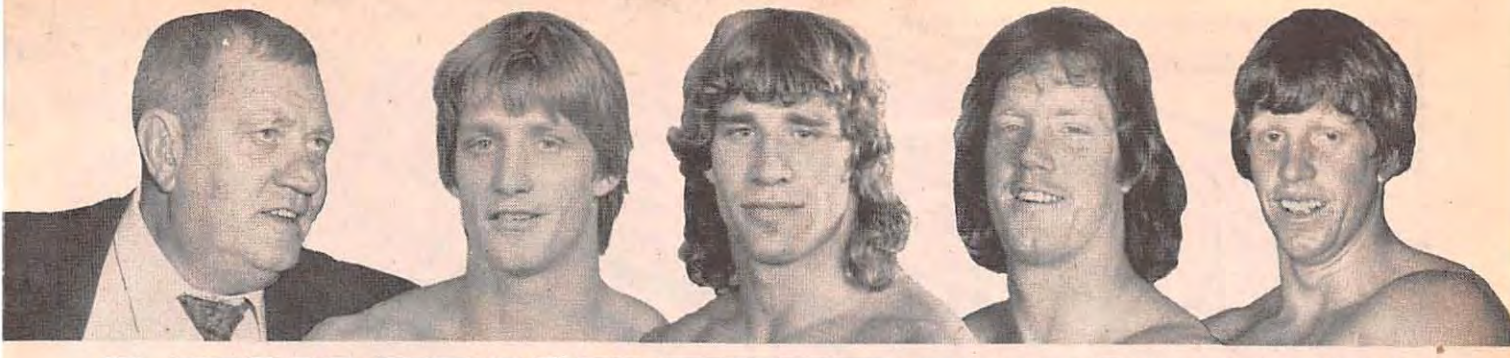
Because of the Coliseum's decision to book NWA cards, the WWF pulled out of Nassau for several months and didn't return until this past October. In doing so, the WWF delivered a clear message to Coliseum officials: if you want us, you can't have them. And after the NWA's failures, the Coliseum's decision was an easy one.

We'd also be foolish to think that the hierarchy at Madison Square Garden, sitting only 20 miles away in the heart of Manhattan, wasn't watching this experiment. Have we seen the last of the NWA in New York, the most lucrative sports market in the country?

February 5: Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan. From a business standpoint, it marked the return of wrestling to national prime time network television for the first time in 30 years. *Main Event,* aired on NBC, was the highest rated show in the 8-9 p.m. time slot that Friday night and was the most watched wrestling show of all time. NBC has scheduled another prime time special for the 1988-89 season and also plans to broadcast the Slammy Awards. Yes, the WWF *is* ready for prime time.

From a wrestling standpoint, no match has ever had such a big effect on the sport. Andre scored a controversial pin over Hogan, who was World champion at the time, and it was later learned that the referee was an imposter. Andre tried to give the belt to Ted DiBiase, but WWF President Jack Tunney ruled that the title couldn't be bought or sold. The WrestleMania IV World title tournament was then ordered. Because of this match, Hogan was no longer

(Continued on page 80)



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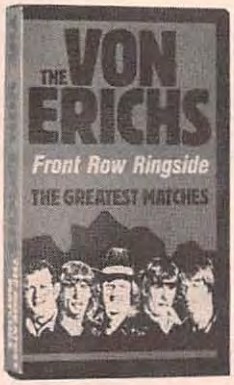

THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

- The entire June 1, 1982, Fritz Von Erich no-disqualification retirement match against King Kong Bundy.
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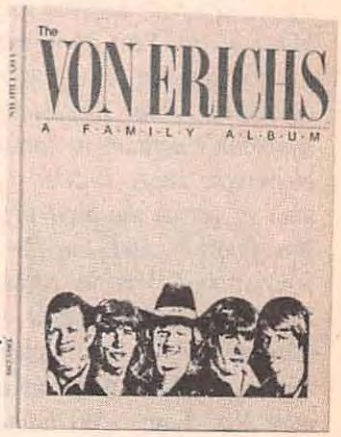
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the *entire* Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have *never* been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.



SPECIAL OFFER!

You might expect to spend upwards of $59.95 or $69.95 for a Von Erich videotape of this quality, or $20.00 or more for the Von Erich family scrapbook. But in this special magazine offer, you can get *The Von Erichs: Front Row Ringside* for the low price of only $29.95 (plus $3.00 postage and handling), and *The Von Erichs: A Family Album* for the low price of just $13.95 (plus $2.00 postage and handling).

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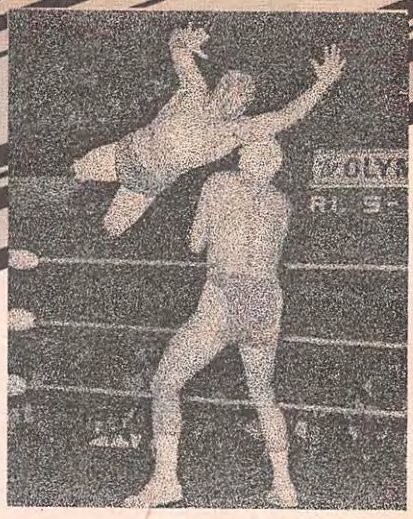
BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope



If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

[Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

BRIEFLY, MY OWN year-end awards: Wrestler of the Year: Randy Savage. Mistake of the Year: Savage's decision to befriend Hulk Hogan. Move of the Year (three-way tie): Lex Luger's decision to leave The Four Horsemen; Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson's decision to leave The Four Horsemen; Dusty Rhodes' triple-somersault to get to the head of the line at Wan-Foo's All-U-Can-Eat Chinese Smorgasbord. Wrestler Most Likely To Die From Embarrassment In A Rare Moment of Introspection: Dusty Rhodes. Wrestler Most Likely To Receive Next Year's **PWI** *Editors' Award: Andre the Giant Idiot. Tag Team Whose Fans' Ages Most Closely Approximates Their IQs: The Rock 'n' Roll Express (average fan's age: 16; average fan's IQ: 18). Female Wrestler Most Likely To Induce Cardiac Arrest In Bill (I've Been Married Too Long) Apter: Madusa Miceli. Wrestler Most Likely To Burn In Hell Forever (If Convicted): Jose Gonzales. Valet Most Likely To Have Affair With Bald-Headed, Orange-Skinned Ex-WWF Champion: Miss Elizabeth. Federal Agency Toward Which This Columnist Has The Most Animosity: The Post Office.*

Dear Eddie,

I've been praying for the day The Honky Tonk Man would be dethroned and—*presto!*—it finally happens. I don't happen to particularly care for The Ultimate Warrior, but I'd rather have a howling lunatic defending the Intercontinental title than a crooning greaseball. Care to comment?

MEGGIE CARDLE
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Meggie,

The Honky Tonk Man was the worst major titleholder in the history of pro wrestling. Ultimate Warrior may have his brains in his biceps, and he may not be able to actually, you know, *wrestle,* but he did the sport a favor by shredding HTM into small pieces. Incidentally, your use of the endearment "crooning greaseball" in de-

(Continued on page 78)

Lex Luger (headlocking Ric Flair) made a smart move in leaving the Horsemen; how else could he have gotten so many matches against the "Nature Boy"?

CAN YOU FACE THE FUTURE OF WRESTLING?

MEET SPIKE . . .

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YULETIDE GIFTS FOR THE NEEDY

THIS YEAR-END double issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is scheduled to go on sale in mid-December, smack in the middle of the holiday shopping season. With this in mind (and with a tip of the cap to former Editor-in-Chief Peter King, who regularly featured this idea in his year-end "King's Court" columns), I'd like to present some special gifts to those in wrestling who, in my opinion, truly deserve them:

For Dusty Rhodes: A copy of Dale Carnegie's *How To Win Friends And Influence People*. It's been a rough year for the "American Dream," having had Barry Windham, The Road Warriors, and Ronnie Garvin all turn against him. I'm not suggesting that Dusty's the *sole* reason for all these flip-flops, but isn't it odd how these *nouveau* rulebreakers all marked Big Dust as a primary target for attack?

For Andre the Giant: A permanent invalidation of his wrestling license, applicable worldwide. Andre hasn't looked healthy in at least three years. It's painful to see him attempt to move around the ring in the way he could 15 years ago. It's time for the Giant to retire and take his well-deserved rest.

Sting

For Sting: A 1989 that shows as much improvement, enthusiasm, and fan support as 1988. This man's on a serious roll, and it's going to be exciting to follow his exploits over the coming 12 months.

For Hacksaw Duggan: One of those foam 2x4 souvenirs to replace his wooden 2x4, which has absolutely no place anywhere near a wrestling ring.

For J.J. Dillon: Two more Horsemen.

For Hulk Hogan: A better way to camouflage his balding pate than the fist-bedecked "Hulkster" helmet. This has even less business in the ring than Duggan's 2x4.

For Nikita Koloff: A gross of disposable razors. Nikita simply doesn't look as awesome and fearsome with hair as without, and I think it costs him a psychological edge on his opponents, too.

For Jerry Lawler: A peaceful three-month hiatus from the ring at Caneel Bay on St. John in the Virgin Islands. After the way

Lawler traveled and wrestled in '88, he deserves a rest!

For The Honky Tonk Man: Copies of the following record albums: *The Folksinger's Guitar Guide* (Pete Seeger, Folkways #8354), *Dances Of The World's Peoples, Vol. 1-4* (Folkways #6501-6504), and *The Flat-Picker's Guitar Guide* (J. Silverman, Folkways #8360). If Honky Tonk wants to sing, dance, and play guitar, he may as well learn how to do it *right.*

For The Road Warriors: A string of top-flight opponents so that they'll be able to make their first NWA World tag title reign the kind of tenure we all dreamed about since 1983.

For Rick Rude: A steady girlfriend so he'll leave everyone else—particularly Cheryl Roberts—alone.

For Kevin Sullivan: A date with Elvira; I think they'd really hit it off.

For Vince McMahon: A date with Elizabeth; I don't think they'd hit it off (in fact, I think Randy Savage would hit McMahon's head off his shoulders!), but maybe after the date McMahon would finally stop drooling while Elizabeth is at ringside and talk about *the match.*

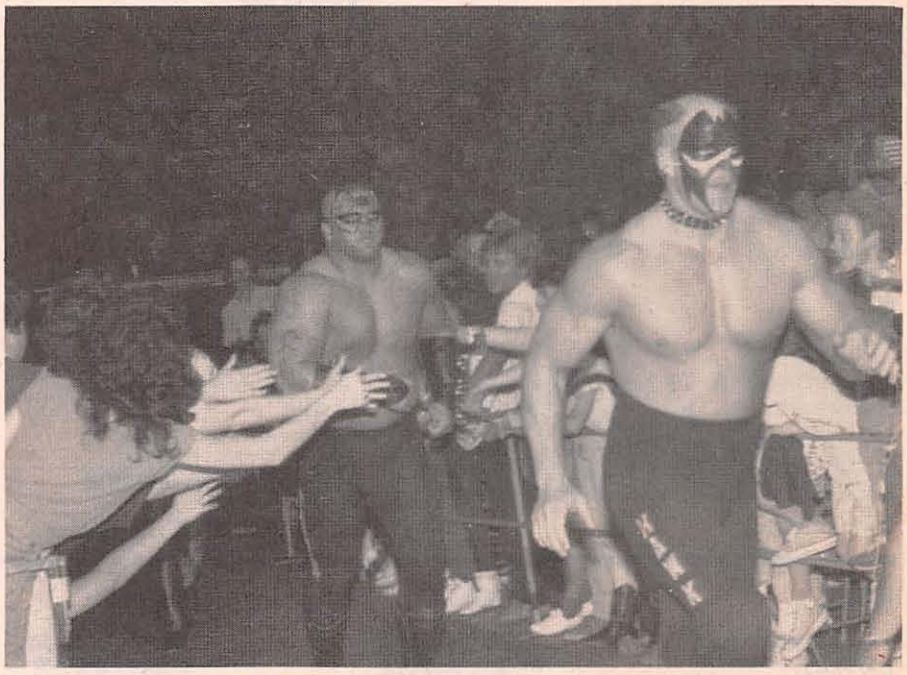
For Gorilla Monsoon: The knowledge that the word "literally" means "in actual fact." For years, Monsoon has been saying things like: "he's literally on the shelf now, Jesse" and "he's literally beating his brains out." Give me a break!

For Col. DeBeers: A copy of the *Sun City* album and a one-way ticket back to Cape Town.

For Lex Luger: A one-on-one cage match against Ric Flair, no time limit, one fall to a finish. Then we'll know who the *real* NWA World champion is.

For Randy Savage: A series of WWF World title matches against Ted DiBiase—without the interference of Virgil, Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan, Elizabeth, a paid referee, or anyone else. DiBiase and Savage are both remarkable scientific wrestlers, but you'd never know it with the constant incidents of interference, run-ins, sneak-attacks, dress-droppings, and assorted other ridiculous goings-on involving the "Macho Man." A pure one-on-one series between DiBiase and Savage would remind everyone about just how good a wrestler the "Million-Dollar Man" is—and could conceivably cement for Savage a reputation equal to that of any former WWF champion.

Jimmy Hart, The Honky Tonk Man, and Peggy Sue



The Road Warriors

For Capt. Lou Albano: A record-shattering level of charitable donations in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

For Barbara Goodish and Bea Franke: The knowledge, painful though it may be, that while Bruiser (Frank Goodish) Brody and Adrian (Keith Franke) Adonis may be gone, they will *never* be forgotten by fans and peers around the world. The physical body may pass on, but the reputation is immortal—Brody and Adonis will, in a very real respect, live forever. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS

PWI's TOP 10

Randy Savage

TOP 10

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   WWF World champion
2. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   AWA World & WCCW champion
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   No. 2 contender: NWA title
5. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   No. 2 contender: WWF title
6. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
7. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   No. 1 contender: WCCW & AWA titles
8. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: WWF title
9. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: NWA title
10. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
    280, Queens, NY
    WWF Intercontinental champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
2. **DEMOLITION**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
3. **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
4. **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
5. **THE FANTASTICS**
   Combined weight: 462 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
6. **JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
   Combined weight: 490 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
7. **THE HART FOUNDATION**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
8. **THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   World Class & Texas tag team champions
9. **MICHAEL HAYES & STEVE COX**
   Combined weight: 495 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WCCW & Texas tag team titles
10. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
    Combined weight: 484 pounds
    No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1. **BARRY WINDHAM** *263, Sweetwater, TX*
2. **LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
3. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
4. **STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA*
5. **STEVE WILLIAMS** *265, Norman, OK*
6. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
7. **MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
8. **BAM BAM BIGELOW** *368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
9. **RICK STEINER** *248, Detroit, MI*
10. **EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *280, Queens, NY*
2. **ANDRE THE GIANT** *497, Grenoble, France*
3. **HULK HOGAN** *302, Venice Beach, CA*
4. **BIG BOSSMAN** *348, Cobb County, GA*
5. **KING HAKU** *274, Tonga*
6. **TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NB*
7. **THE HONKY TONK MAN** *255, Memphis, TN*
8. **BAD NEWS BROWN** *280, New York, NY*
9. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
10. **DINO BRAVO** *246, Montreal, Quebec*

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1. **RONNIE GARVIN** *231, Montreal, Quebec*
2. **KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
3. **GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
4. **WAHOO McDANIEL** *280, Midland, TX*
5. **COL. DeBEERS** *248, Cape Town, South Africa*
6. **MANNY FERNANDEZ** *245, El Paso, TX*
7. **SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Parris Island, SC*
8. **JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
9. **THE IRON SHEIK** *263, Teheran, Iran*
10. **MANDO GUERRERO** *225, Mexico City, Mexico*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1. **ICEMAN PARSONS** *245, St. Louis, MO*
2. **KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
3. **JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
4. **SUPER BLACK NINJA** *245, Tokyo, Japan*
5. **ERIC EMBRY** *225, Lexington, KY*
6. **TERRY GORDY** *289, Chattanooga, TN*
7. **KEVIN VON ERICH** *235, Denton, TX*
8. **KENDALL WINDHAM** *220, Sweetwater, TX*
9. **STEVE COX** *240, Portsmouth, VA*
10. **THE BEAST** *375, Botswana*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide terephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended November 4, 1988

MOST POPULAR

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
3. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
   280, Glens Falls, NY
   Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
5. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
6. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
7. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
8. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
9. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
10. **JAKE ROBERTS**
    246, Stone Mountain, GA
    Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **BIG BOSSMAN**
   348, Cobb County, GA
   Last month: unrated
2. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
4. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NE
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
6. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
7. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
   255, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
8. **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
   252, Boston, MA
   Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
9. **COL. DeBEERS**
   248, Cape Town, South Africa
   Last month: unrated
10. **RONNIE GARVIN**
    231, Montreal, Quebec
    Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ..... 94 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE ..... 86 points
3—LEX LUGER ..... 61 points
4—JERRY LAWLER ..... 53 points
5—STING ..... 46 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 86 points
2—DEMOLITION ..... 76 points
3—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 66 points
4—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ..... 60 points
5—THE FANTASTICS ..... 48 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
2—**LANCE IDOL**
225, Hollywood, CA
3—**BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
4—**CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
5—**STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA
6—**VULKAN SINGH**
300, Billings, MT
7—**GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
8—**JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique
9—**STEVE DiSALVO**
298, Boston, MA
10—**BEEF WELLINGTON**
225, Lloydmaster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

1—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
2—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
3—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
4—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
5—**TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
6—**GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
7—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
8—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
9—**SCOTT STEINER**
235, Detroit, MI
10—**CACTUS JACK**
247, Truth or Consequences. NM

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD
220, Houston, TX

1—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
2—**JERRY STUBBS**
242, Pensacola, FL
3—**RON FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
4—**KEN WAYNE**
208, Memphis, TN
5—**WILLIE B. HERT**
238, El Paso, TX
6—**LORD HUMONGOUS**
325, parts unknown
7—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
8—**KOKINA**
340, Samoa
9—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
10—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown

ICW

ICW Champion:
JOE SAVOLDI
225, Parsippany, NJ

1—**JONATHAN BOYD**
240, New Zealand
2—**DUNGEON MASTER**
260, parts unknown
3—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
4—**JOHNNY CANINE**
240, Pittsburgh, PA
5—**VIC STEAMBOAT**
230, Honolulu, HI
6—**BOSTON BAD BOY**
280, Boston, MA
7—**MOONDOG SPOT**
250, parts unknown
8—**CHIEF GATOR WOLF**
240, Phoenix, AZ
9—**THE THING**
225, parts unknown
10—**SCOTT PUTSKI**
230, Austin, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A new number one! **The Road Warriors**, who earned their first NWA World tag team championship with a victory over **The Midnight Express** on October 29 in New Orleans, have regained the top spot in our tag team ratings for the first time since the August 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* Since then, the Warriors have been rated as low as third, their position for the past two months. The Midnights, who had been rated number one, fell two spots to number three; **Demolition** remains at number two.

"The fact that **Animal** and **Hawk** are the best tag team in the world has never eluded us," said Editor-in-Chief **Stu Saks.** "It's just that it was hard to justify putting them on top when they hadn't held a world title for so long. But now that they're champs, they deserve the top spot."

Jerry Lawler

A new number two! **Ric Flair** has been defending his NWA World title infrequently over the past few months against a limited number of challengers (mainly **Sting** and **Lex Luger**, with a rare defense against **Rick Steiner** thrown in). **Jerry Lawler**, on the other hand, has defended his AWA World title nearly every night against a wide range of challengers from several federations. On October 23 in Memphis, Lawler defeated **Kerry Von Erich** and added the World Class heavyweight title to his trophy case.

With that in mind, Lawler has moved up a notch to number two in the Top 10 ratings, displacing Flair, who dropped a notch. Incredibly, this marks the first time since the Top 10 ratings were first introduced in the September 1983 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* that the AWA champion is rated above the NWA champion!

What a difference a year makes! In keeping with the theme of this year-end issue, we thought we'd take a look at the ratings in the March 1988 year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (for the period ended November 4, 1987) and examine how things have changed since then.

THE WINNERS: AWA World champ **Jerry Lawler**, unrated and beltless at this time last year, is now at number two in the Top 10 ratings ... **Randy Savage** has gone from number eight and top contender to the WWF Intercontinental title to number one and WWF World champion ... **Andre the Giant** was nowhere to be found in our ratings last year; now he's the number-two contender to the WWF World title and number five in the Top 10 ... **Kerry Von Erich** hadn't even started his comeback last November, but he's number seven and the top contender to both the World Class and AWA titles now ... **Sting**, an up-and-coming young star last year, has made an incredible impact and is number nine in the Top 10 ... Sting's former tag partner, **The Ultimate Warrior**, wasn't rated anywhere last year; this year, he's Intercontinental champ and number 10 in the Top 10 ... **Bubba Rogers**, number nine in the NWA at the end of 1987, is now known as **Big Bossman** in the WWF, where he's rated number four and feuding with **Hulk Hogan** ... **Phil Hickerson** was an unknown last year, but he's CWA champ this year.

Hulk Hogan

THE LOSERS: Last year, WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** and NWA World champion **Ronnie Garvin** were one-two in the Top 10 ratings; Hogan is no longer champ and has dropped to number eight, while Garvin is out of the NWA (now AWA TV champ) and out of the Top 10 ratings ... **Curt Hennig** was AWA World champion last year; now he's trying to work his way out of the WWF shuffle. Meanwhile, he's unrated ... **D.J. Peterson** was an up-and-coming young star in the AWA, where he was rated number nine; D.J. recently left the WWF and is now in the Central States area ... Tough year for **The Honky Tonk Man**, who went from WWF Intercontinental champ and number-one contender to the World title last year to number six and beltless this year ... **Terry Taylor** was right near the top of the UWF ratings at number two last year; now he's just another wrestler in the WWF.

MUCH PAIN, NO GAIN: Ric Flair is NWA World champion but is rated number three in the Top 10, the same spot he held last year as a top contender ... **Lex Luger** no longer has the U.S. heavyweight title, but he's remained at number four in the Top 10 ... **Barry Windham** was Western States champ and number six in the Top 10 last year; he's U.S. champ and number six this year ... After a year of failed shots at the WWF World title, **Ted DiBiase** is right where he started: number five in the WWF ... **Hacksaw Duggan** has captured the fans' attention, but he's still number nine in the WWF ratings.

A first-timer. That's the ICW—International Championship Wrestling—which takes center stage in our revolving ratings category for the first time. The ICW runs cards throughout the country, including Canada, most of New England, New Jersey, New York, Arizona, and Florida. The champion is **Joe Savoldi**, son of ICW promoter **Mario Savoldi.** Other stars are **Vic Steamboat**, brother of **Rick Steamboat**, and **Scott Putski**, son of **Ivan Putski.**

How about those Warriors? Do you agree with our decision to make them number one in the tag team ratings? Does Jerry Lawler deserve the number-two spot in the Top 10? We'd like to know what you think. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY; 11571. □

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

Section compiled by
Bob Smith, David Rosenbaum, Andy Rodriguez, Gersh Kuntzman, and Craig Peters

1988 will be remembered as one of the most shocking years in wrestling history. Who could have predicted some of the unprecedented events that took place?

It was a year when Hulk Hogan, a man many considered unbeatable, was dethroned as WWF champion. It was a year when popular Barry Windham joined The Four Horsemen, wrestling's most hated organization—only months before Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson shocked the world by joining the WWF. And it was a year when Jerry Lawler became the AWA World champion.

On the promotional side, the WWF and NWA continued to be the sport's Big Two. The WWF continued to gain a host of new talent, including Anderson, Blanchard, Terry Taylor, and Curt Hennig; but they also lost some key figures, including Bam Bam Bigelow, Rick Steamboat, and Don Muraco. The NWA held its ground with a massively popular series of bouts between World champion Ric Flair and challenger Lex Luger during The Great American Bash. And while many expected the smaller federations to lose ground to these two promotional juggernauts, many actually rebounded to have solid years.

In fact, several promotions decided to work together to present wrestling cards, a move preceded by Lawler's insistence on defending his AWA belt all over the world. Suddenly, the AWA, CWA, CWF, and World Class decided that merging their talents would be mutually beneficial. This new level of promotional cooperation led to the birth of SuperClash III, the first pay-per-view wrestling event presented by a federation other than the WWF or NWA.

Will these smaller promotions continue to gain strength? Can the WWF top WrestleMania IV? Can Flair maintain his viselike grip on the NWA World title? Perhaps 1989 will provide the answers to those questions.

Meanwhile, fans around the world will surely remember the moments that made 1988 a great year for the sport:

1988 SAW Randy Savage emerge victorious over 13 top contenders to win the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV, held at the Atlantic City Convention Center. While the event as a whole was not the critical success of WrestleMania III, the 1988 version was important not only for Savage's victory over Ted DiBiase in the tournament final, but for Demolition's victory over Strike Force for the WWF World tag team championship.

1988 SAW the tragic deaths of two of wrestling's most celebrated and influential stars. Adrian Adonis died in an automobile accident on June 4 in Lewisporte, Newfoundland; Bruiser Brody died on July 17, the day after a dressing room stabbing prior to a wrestling card in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. As different as two men could possibly be, Adonis and Brody continue to be mourned all over the world.

1988 SAW Jerry "The King" Lawler finally realize his lifelong goal by winning the AWA World title from Curt Hennig on May 9 at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. It took Lawler 18 long years to win his first world singles championship, but it only took him a few months to significantly increase the value of the AWA title. Lawler traveled the country taking on the best contenders he could find—unprecedented for a modern wrestling champion.

1988 SAW pay-per-view television become a wrestling staple. During the year, the WWF showcased WrestleMania IV, SummerSlam 88, and The Survivor Series on cable systems across the country. The NWA used pay-per-view to bring the Bunkhouse Stampede, Great American Bash, and Starrcade to larger audiences than had ever seen these exciting events. And the AWA made its first venture into the pay-per-view arena with its multifederation SuperClash III spectacular.

1988 SAW ALL OF THIS—AND MUCH, MUCH MORE . . .

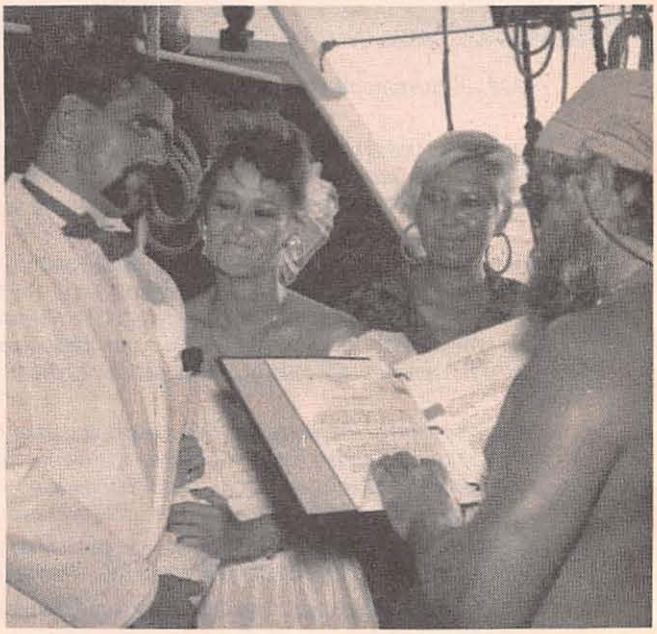
★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

COMING NEXT WEEK TO THE STAGE DOOR DINNER THEATER: KING KONG BUNDY AS DON QUIXOTE IN *MAN OF LA MANCHA* . . .

King Kong Bundy, on leave from the WWF, became quite popular as an actor and a commercial spokesman during 1988. The 446-pound Atlantic City giant continued his series of commercials for Vendex personal computers, appearing in several new ads during the year. He also made an appearance on the Fox Network's popular sitcom *Married With Children*, and was a featured player in the Richard Pryor comedy *Moving*, released last spring by Warner Brothers.

. . . AND RODDY PIPER IN THE LEAD ROLE OF *HAMLET*

Former WWF star Roddy Piper, who left wrestling in 1987 to become an actor, apparently has made the right choice. Piper received the leading role in *They Live*, a John Carpenter thriller released by Universal in November. He also had featured roles in *Hell Comes To Frogtown* and *Body Slam*, both of which were released on home video during the year.



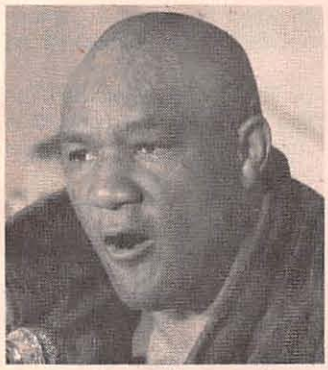
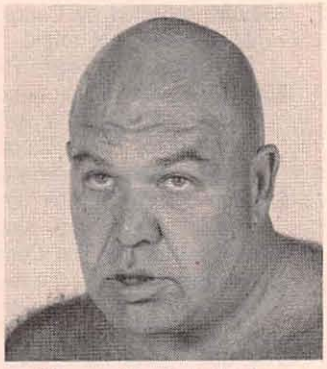
HOW DO YOU SAY 'I DO' IN RUSSIAN?

Nikita Koloff and Mandy Smithson were married in Florida on September 20. The ceremony was conducted entirely in English, which confused Nikita to a certain degree. After the service, the Moscow native said, "I *think* I'm married. Mandy kick me in shins when I was supposed to say 'I do'—but that is last time she tell Nikita what to say!"

YOU PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT IN, YOU PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT OUT, YOU PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT IN, AND YOU SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT! YOU DO THE HOKEY POKEY AND YOU TURN YOURSELF AROUND . . . THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

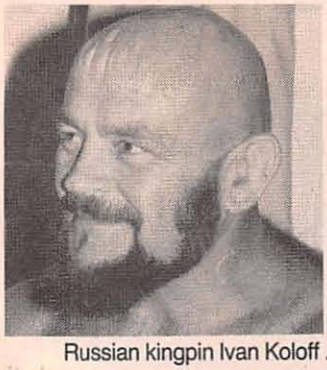
★ 1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW ★

ONCE AGAIN, WITH A TIP OF THE CONCEPTUAL HAT TO *SPY* MAGAZINE, WE WONDER WHETHER THESE PEOPLE WERE, IN FACT, SEPARATED AT BIRTH:

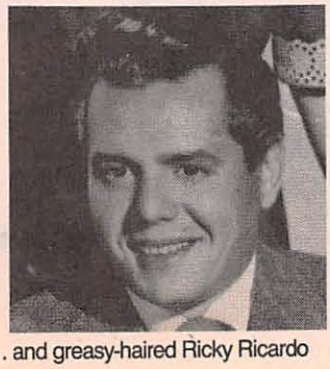



George Foreman, boxer . . . and George Steele, animal

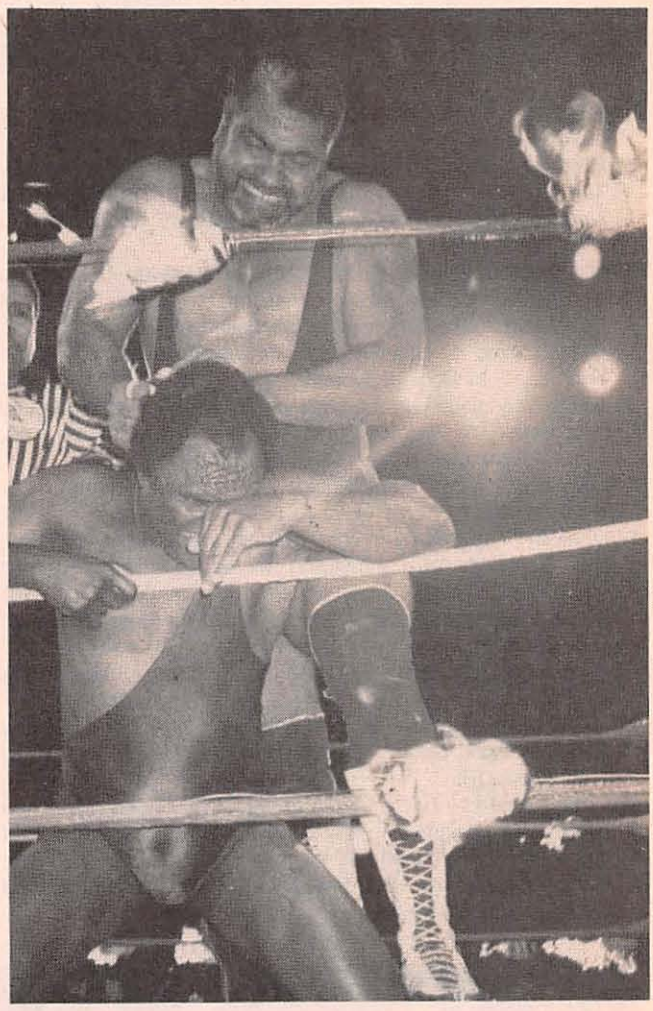
Wrestler Domenic DeNucci . . . and crooner Tony Bennett



Russian kingpin Ivan Koloff . . . and King of Siam Yul Brynner



Greasy-haired Honky Tonk Man . . . and greasy-haired Ricky Ricardo



GOODNESS GRACIOUS, GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

This past year was a hot one, but that didn't justify the repeated use of fireballs, one of the most barbaric tactics ever allowed in a wrestling ring. The most flagrant offender was Eddie Gilbert, who burned Austin Idol, Randy Hales, Jerry Jarrett, and referee John Keaton. When he burned Jerry Lawler, "The King" was so badly scorched that he was out of action for weeks. Lawler should know better, but even *he* has stooped to using this tactic, burning Dory Funk Jr., Ron Garvin, and Buddy Landell. The most incredible use of fire, however, took place in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, on September 12, where Carlos Colon wrestled Hercules Ayala in a WWC event featuring a ring surrounded by flaming, gasoline-soaked rags. We understand that marshmallows were not included in the ticket price.

AN EXAMPLE OF INNOVATIVE MATCHMAKING THAT, IF PROPERLY NURTURED, COULD BE THE THING TO CARRY OUR BELOVED SPORT INTO THE 1990s AND BEYOND

In August, Bugsy McGraw and Dr. Red Roberts tangled in a Hollywood, Florida, match where the loser had to eat a genuine insect: a real, live cockroach! Roberts was forced to swallow both the loss and the vermin.

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

NUMBERS '88

$19.95 was the most common price charged by cable television companies for pay-per-view wrestling events during 1988.

$100 stuffed into the mouths of various preliminary opponents by Ted DiBiase following matches throughout the spring and summer; after DiBiase shoved the cash in, his bodyguard, Virgil, would take the money back.

$5,000 wagered by Eric Embry and rookie Steven Casey as a side bet for a best-of-three series for the World Class light heavyweight title; Embry won the series and the money.

$5,000 collected by Brian Pillman for winning a battle royal on February 3 in Regina, Alberta.

$5,000 bounty placed on the head of Mr. Wrestling II by masked rulebreaker Mr. Altanta in the Southern Championship area. To date, the bounty has yet to be collected.

$10,000 won by Bam Bam Bigelow for winning a 14-man battle royal on August 12 in Chicago.

$10,000 fine imposed by WWF President Jack Tunney on "Outlaw" Ron Bass for manhandling referee Dave Hebner during an August 3 attack on Brutus Beefcake in Wheeling, West Virginia. Surprisingly, no fine was levied for Bass' slicing of Beefcake's forehead just moments later.

$25,000 collected by Willie B. Hert for winning the "Grab For The Green" battle royal on October 3 in Birmingham, Alabama.

$25,000 bounty imposed by Eddie Gilbert on the head of Jerry Lawler in April. Several wrestlers tried to win the bounty; no one collected it.

$25,000 donated by Eddie Gilbert to the CWF; Gilbert put up the money to be awarded to any man who could beat him during the "Road To Birmingham" tournament on October 3. Gilbert left the Continental area days before the tourney, prompting CWF officials to donate the funds to charity.

$50,000 collected by Carlos Colon when he defeated Samoan Afa in the final round of the Gillette Cup tournament on February 27 in Puerto Rico.

$50,000 in prize money wagered by The Road Warriors and The Powers of Pain in a weightlifting contest on January 30 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Animal suffered serious facial injuries when he was attacked during that event.

$50,000 collected by Mr. Olympia for winning a two-ring battle royal in Birmingham, Alabama, on May 29.

$62,000 raised for The Community Foundation of Texas' Brennan Bolin Fund as the result of a benefit card of World Class wrestling on June 11 at the Cedar Valley College Gymnasium in Lancaster, Texas.

$100,000 offered to Austin Idol to join the stable of Paul E. Dangerously in July; Dangerously had previously offered Idol sums of $25,000 and $50,000. Idol refused each offer.

$120,000 bail posted for Jose Huertas Gonzales, who was charged with first-degree murder and weapons violations for the stabbing death of Bruiser Brody in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

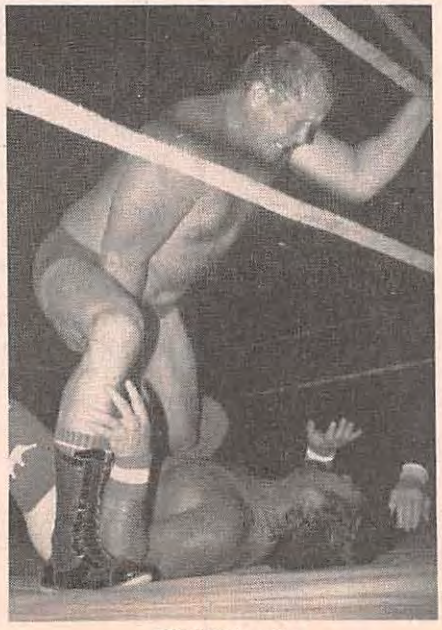
$250,000 collected by rookie Scott Steiner for winning the CWA's Renegade Rampage tournament on June 6 in Memphis.

$500,000 won by Dusty Rhodes for winning the third annual NWA Bunkhouse Stampede at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, on January 24.

$1,000,000 prize collected by Sting and Lex Luger for defeating Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard in the final round of the third annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 23.

$100,000,000 is the estimated worth of the World Wrestling Federation, as reported in the October 17, 1988, issue of *Forbes* magazine.

$100,000 refusal



$25,000 bounty

$1,000,000 memorial

$50,000 ambush

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

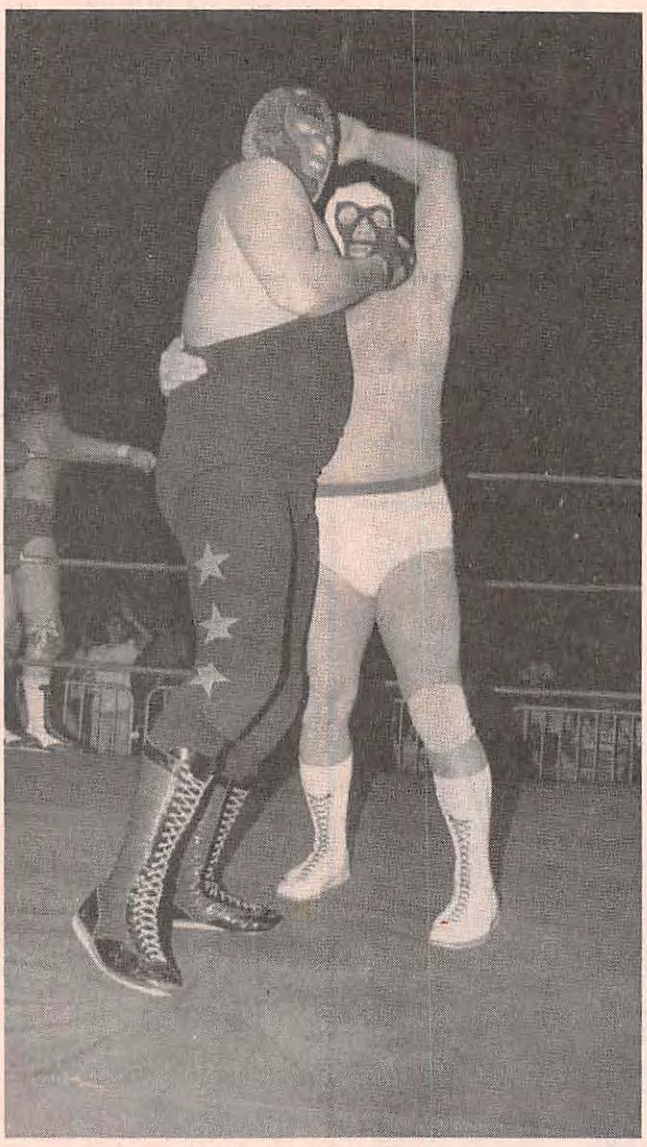
GOING . . .

GOING . . .

GONE!

UNKNOWN? OKAY, HERE'S WHAT YOU DO: TRAVEL SOUTH FROM BALTIMORE ON ROUTE 95, HANG A RIGHT IN PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, PICK UP ROUTE 85, AND KEEP GOING FOR ABOUT 500 MILES—YOU CAN'T MISS IT!

Mr. Atlanta, who wrestled in the Southern Championship Wrestling area this year, billed himself from—"parts unknown."



Mr. Atlanta vs. Mr. Wrestling II .

WE *HAAAAAAAAAAAAAATE* YOU!

The WWF has foisted many cartoonish individuals on wrestling fans during the past few years, including The Honky Tonk Man, Brutus Beefcake, and Koko B. Ware. But the most obnoxious personality ever to hit the airwaves has to be Brother Love, host of interview segments on WWF telecasts and author of the irritating catch phrase, "I *luuuuv* you!" This bogus televangelist may take first place as the most unwanted man ever to appear on televised wrestling. Sorry, Brother Love, but you're *not* funny, you're *not* informative, and you're *certainly* not entertaining.

MISSING IN ACTION

Ole Anderson
Ted Arcidi
Norvell Austin
Salvatore Bellomo
Bota The Witch Doctor
Denny Brown
The Bruise Brothers
King Kong Bundy
Cousin Junior
Eli the Eliminator
The Falcon
Carl Fergie
Ed Gantner
Scott Hall
Hillbilly Elmer
Kevin Kelly
Don Kernodle
Killer Khan
Nick Kiniski
The Maxx Brothers
Mighty Wilbur
Mongolian Stomper
Mr. Go
Nord the Barbarian
Steve O
Rip Oliver
Outback Jack
Max Pain
Vladimir Petrov
Butch Reed
Ron Ritchie
Bob Roop
Mitch Snow
J.T. Southern
The Spoiler
John Studd
Sunshine
Jeep Swenson
John Tatum
Vinnie Valentino
Lance Von Erich
Tom Zenk

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

Jose Huertas Gonzales

POLICE BLOTTER

Jose Huertas Gonzales was arrested on July 19 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and charged with first degree murder and weapons violations for the death of Frank Goodish, better known as Bruiser Brody. Gonzales was released on $120,000 bail; his arraignment has been postponed three times and was scheduled for November 2.

King Haku was charged with assault and battery on October 25 for allegedly trying to bite the nose off a bar patron and assaulting the doorman at The Safari Club in the International Hotel in Baltimore. According to a $1.1-million lawsuit filed in Baltimore County Circuit Court, Warren Brent Cooper of Relay, Maryland, requires plastic surgery and will remain permanently disfigured because of the biting incident. The incident occurred on June 26, but Haku wasn't charged until he returned to Baltimore in late October.

Cpl. Mike Kirchner was sentenced to 180 days in jail for non-payment of $7,000 in child support in a court decision in Broward County, Florida.

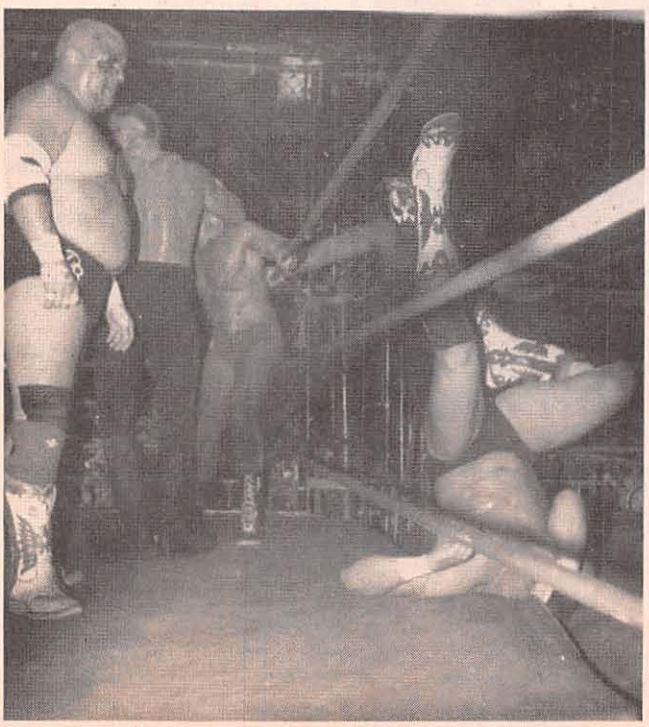
Steve Williams was arrested at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on January 4 on charges of willfully, knowingly, and unlawfully attempting to export cocaine from the U.S. A subsequent search allegedly revealed that Williams had in his possession three grams of cocaine, 22 grams of marijuana, two grams of psilocybin, assorted barbituates, 241 steroid tablets, and 28 milliliters of an injectible steroid. Williams is currently free on $25,000 bail.

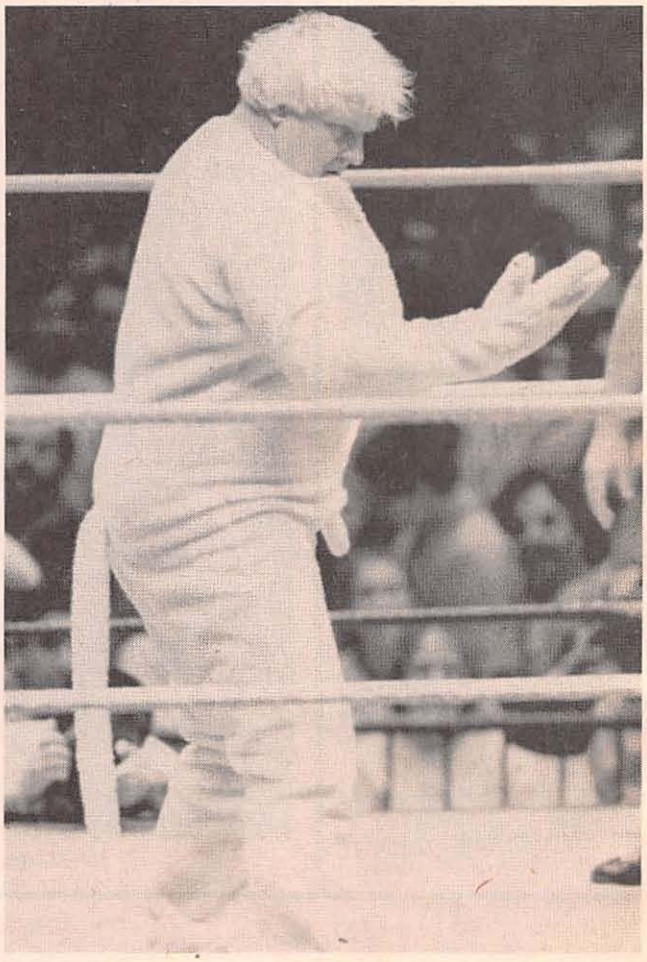
YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK WE WANT TO KNOW BETTER

When reviewing the last 12 issues of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (ranging from last year's March 1988 year-end issue through last month's February 1989 issue), one discovers that Hulk Hogan appeared—in primary or secondary positions—on an astonishing nine covers out of 12! Cover girl Christie Brinkley, move over!

CUT IT OUT, GUYS, WAIT A MINUTE! I DROPPED MY CAR KEYS UNDER THE RING, BUT I THINK I SEE THEM, SO JUST LET ME . . . AW, COME ON, GUYS!

Barry Windham found himself in a decidedly precarious—and slightly preposterous—position when he got his head stuck between the rings during a War Games: The Match Beyond contest on July 23 in Philadelphia.





IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU, SOME GUYS CAN WEAR *ANYTHING*

Imagine how you'd feel if *you* woke up from a bad night's sleep with a tail. That's exactly how Bobby Heenan felt after The Ultimate Warrior beat him in a wrestling bout, then stuffed him into a weasel suit. The real tragedy for Heenan was that it happened not once, but several times around the country!

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

INJURY REPORT '88

Chris Adams was hospitalized after receiving two piledrivers from Terry Taylor on February 12 at The Sportatorium in Dallas; the second piledriver broke Adams' left hand in three places. On April 8 in Kansas City, Adams was on the receiving end of a dropkick from Mike George that broke Adams' nose, knocked out two of his teeth, and blackened both of his eyes; Adams was out of action only a few days. When he made his return, World Class officials allowed him to wrestle wearing a catcher's mask.

Brutus Beefcake suffered a mild concussion after being struck in the head with a guitar by The Honky Tonk Man during an interview on May 10 in Duluth, Minnesota. Beefcake also suffered severe forehead and scalp lacerations after being cut by Ron Bass' spurs on August 3 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Dan Davis suffered severe head and scalp injuries at the hands of Ken Wayne during a hair vs. hair match in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 3. Davis was lacerated several times when Wayne crashed an empty soda bottle over his head.

Doug Furnas received a mild concussion and needed 28 stitches in his forehead after being attacked by Buddy Landell following a stretcher match against Humongous on February 16 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jim Garvin suffered a broken right leg at the hands of Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotundo during an NWA TV taping on August 31 in Atlanta. He was out of action for almost two months.

Superstar Graham was hospitalized after reinjuring his hip when Greg Valentine attacked him and applied a figure-four leglock on June 1 in Oakland, California. The injury effectively ended Graham's wrestling and managing careers.

Michael Hayes received a concussion when he was hit in the head with a guitar by Buddy Roberts during a Badstreet Band concert on March 4 at The Sportatorium in Dallas. Hayes missed several weeks of action as a result of the incident.

Invader III suffered several crushed ribs and a punctured right lung after receiving three kneedrops from the top turnbuckle from Manny Fernandez on May 7 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was out of action for about four months.

Jeff Jarrett broke his left arm when he was struck with a baseball bat by Robert Fuller on June 11 in Memphis.

Jerry Lawler was blinded and forced out of action for several weeks after Eddie Gilbert threw a fireball in his face during a sneak-attack February 22 in Memphis. Lawler also broke two bones in his left hand playing softball with his "Lawler's Army" charity team on September 9 at Rodney Baber Field in Memphis; he was forced to wear a cast for about six weeks.

Rick Martel suffered severe back and neck injuries after being double-teamed by Demolition on June 1 in Oakland, California; he has yet to return to action.

Frank Melson, a preliminary wrestler, went into shock and was hospitalized after losing a great deal of blood in an August match against Abdullah the Butcher at the Chicago Amphitheatre.

Gorilla Monsoon, now a WWF broadcaster, suffered a mild heart attack in January. He returned to his announcing duties about a month later.

Jerry Morrow injured his back and hips after falling during a tag team match on August 10 in Camrose, Alberta. He was hospitalized for several weeks.

Mr. Olympia suffered a broken right arm during an altercation with Paul E. Dangerously and Eddie Gilbert on June 7 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brian Pillman injured his right bicep during an August tag team match in Calgary, Alberta. He was out of action for several months.

Ron Powers, a rookie wrestler, suffered a broken nose at the hands of Nord the Barbarian on March 4 at The Fox Theatre in St. Louis.

Harley Race left the WWF in May after undergoing extensive abdominal surgery for a ruptured intestine. He has been out of action since that time, although he was announced as being a participant in the WWF Survivor Series on November 24.

Road Warrior Animal suffered a host of eye and face injuries following an attack by The Warlord and The Barbarian during a weightlifting challenge on January 30 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The oribital rim of Animal's left eye was so severely damaged that it had to be operated on from the inside out, with surgery performed through the sinus area. Part of his sinus bone had to be used to rebuild the orbital rim. Thirty stitches were needed to close the area removed inside the sinus. He was out of action for about two months.

Sting was forced to wear a neck brace for several weeks after being attacked by The Road Warriors during a six-man tag team match on October 8 in Richmond, Virginia.

Kevin Von Erich had just recovered from a broken right big toe when he was hospitalized for post-concussion syndrome during September. This condition was brought on by several head injuries sustained during Von Erich's football and wrestling careers. He returned to the ring in mid-October.

★ 1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW ★

QUOTABLES '88

"The Four Horsemen ***were*** *a dynasty, but it's all over now. It was the kind of thing that can never be recaptured again. But the names Flair, Anderson, and Blanchard will always be on top of the heap, and you can count on that."*

Arn Anderson (January 1989 *Inside Wrestling*)

"Please tell my wife I love her and tell my little son I love him."

Bruiser Brody to Carlos Carlon as Brody lay bleeding on the floor of the dressing room in Juan Ramon Loubriel Stadium after being stabbed

"Bush and Dukakis were perfect candidates for the highest office in this lowly nation. Both are lying despots, and lying is the leading form of expression in this godforsaken country."

South African Col. DeBeers (February 1989 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*)

"Don't ever call me a Freebird again. That part of my past is over. Never again will I team with 'Bamm Bamm' or Buddy 'Jack.' It's over. History."

Michael Hayes on the breakup of The Freebirds (August 1988 *Inside Wrestling*)

"I beat Savage. I never would've dreamed that he'd become World champion one day. To put it bluntly, I kicked his butt."

Jerry Lawler (December 1988 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*)

"We have a pair of 'his' and 'hers' bath towels in the main bathroom. Well, the other day, I walked into the bathroom and saw that Jerry's bath towels were replaced by towels that say, 'King.' Imagine that, 'King' and 'hers' bath towels. It's ridiculous!"

Paula Lawler, discussing her husband's change of behavior after winning the AWA World title (October 1988 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*)

"The dog was eating caviar, the bodyguard was drinking champagne, and I got zip!"

Robin Leach, host of *Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous*, on his experiences at Ted DiBiase's estate

"They used to be pretty good about five years ago, but if they were The Beatles, we are U2. If they were Elton John, we are George Michael. They are yesterday's heroes, but we are today, baby."

Midnight Rocker Marty Jannetty on The Rock 'n' Roll Express (July 1988 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*)

"I never told the fans to take their vitamins and say their prayers. They cheered for me because they ***wanted*** *to, not because they were* ***programmed*** *to."*

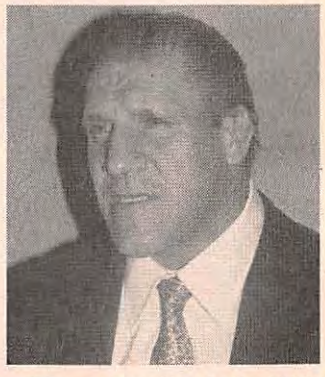
Roddy Piper (December 1988 *Inside Wrestling*)

"It was a good match, I hated to stop it, but I had to. Maryland has a state athletic guideline that prohibits a match from continuing after blood has been sighted. When I saw Luger's blood on Flair's shoulder, I had to stop it. There doesn't have to be a big pool or anything, just a little will do it."

Maryland State Athletic Commissioner Ray Ianucci on his decision to stop the July 10 Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger Baltimore Bash title match (November 1988 *Wrestler*)

"Sloppy joes, barbecued spare ribs dripping with sauce, barbecued chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs, big, fat steaks, baby, and cold potato salad. But let me tell you something, baby, 'The Dream' isn't in the mood to eat. I'm gonna have my parties this summer and my best friend ain't gonna be there."

Dusty Rhodes, lamenting Barry Windham's decision to join The Four Horsemen (October 1988 *Wrestler*)



"To me, wrestling in the WWF has become a pathetic circus. Today you see this guy with the python snake, and the guy with the bird, and the dog. In my career, my ambition was to bring respect to professional wrestling. I feel that the WWF has made a complete 180-degree turn. I'm embarrassed to be associated with wrestling today."

Bruno Sammartino (August 1988 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*)

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

IN MEMORY OF . . .
Adrian Adonis
Fred Atkins
Bruiser Brody
Bad Leroy Brown
Jim Carlisle
J.R. Foley
Paul Jones
Pat Kelly
LeRoy McGuirk
Dave McKigney
Mike Sharpe Sr.
Tom Thumb

YOU JUST CAN'T TELL THE SAMOANS WITHOUT A SCORECARD

Who are The Samoans? Why, they're Afa and Sika of course—no, they're Haku and Tama. No, they're Tama and Fatu. No, they're Sika and Kokina. No, they're Afa and Fatu. No, they're Fatu and Samu. No, they're . . . oh, we give up!

Sika & Afa

Haku & Tama

Fatu & Samu

AND WASN'T THE WORLD JUST WAITING FOR . . .

. . . Mine, George Steele's doll and constant companion?
. . . "Celebrity Corner" on AWA telecasts?
. . . the return of The Midnight Rider?
. . . Elizabeth to take off her *top* at SummerSlam?
. . . Superstar Graham's announcing debut?
. . . Randy "Macho Man" Savage boxer shorts?
. . . evil twin referees?
. . . bumbling, stumbling "Prince Of Darkness" matches?
. . . Ron Trongard to join the WWF announcing team?

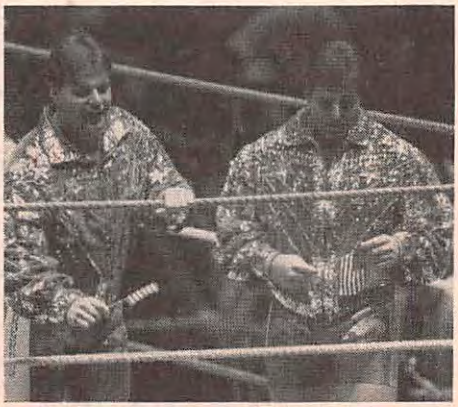
. . . Four Horsemen vitamins?

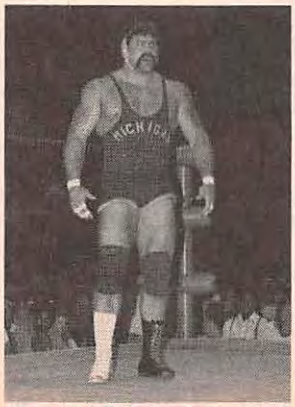
IT ALL SOUNDS LIKE A NICE SELECTION FOR A MAIN COURSE, BUT DO WE GET RED ROOSTER ROLAIDS AFTER WE'RE THROUGH?

Even the delicatessen at Atlantic City's Trump Plaza got into the spirit of things during WrestleMania IV.

1989 SHOULD BE THEIR YEAR

Sting


The Rougeau Brothers


Rick Steiner

Paul E. Dangerously

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES '88

A review of the year's major title changes up to press time. This is not an exhaustive list; for the most complete record of championship changes throughout the year, refer to the "Roll Call Of Champions" printed monthly in our sister publication *Inside Wrestling*

January 4: Jonathan Boyd becomes the Alabama champion by defeating Tom Prichard in Birmingham, Alabama ... Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, & Iceman Parsons win the World Class six-man championship from Matt Borne, Steve Simpson, & Chris Adams in Ft. Worth, Texas ... John Tatum & Jack Victory capture the World Class Texas tag team title from Skip Young & Tony Atlas in Ft. Worth.

January 5: Hurricane Castillo Jr. defeats Ed Gran Mendoza to become the WWC junior heavyweight champion in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

January 6: The Invaders defeat Mr. Pogo & Kendo Nagasaki in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to become the WWC tag team champions.

January 18: Kengo Kimura & Tatsumi Fujinami win the IWGP International tag team title by defeating Yoshiaki Fujiwara & Kazuo Yamazaki in Tokyo.

January 23: Mike George wins a tournament final over Dick Slater to become the WWA champion in Kansas City, Kansas.

1/24: Zbyszko vs. Windham

January 24: Larry Zbyszko beats Barry Windham for the NWA Western States championship in Uniondale, New York ... The Jumping Bomb Angels win the WWF women's tag team title from Lelani Kai & Judy Martin in Hamilton, Ontario.

January 29: Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue win the All-Japan Asian tag team title from Samson Fuyuki & Toshiaki Kamada in Tokyo ... Yumi Ogura downs Bull Nakano to win the All-Japan women's championship in Nagoya, Japan.

January 30: Abdullah the Butcher wins the WWC North American title from Miguel Perez Jr. in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

February 1: Max Pain & Gary Young defeat Jeff Jarrett & Manny Fernandez in a tournament final to become the CWA tag team champions in Memphis.

February 6: Dan Kroffat & Bobby Jaggers beat Chris & Mark Youngblood for the WWC Caribbean tag team title in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

February 8: Max Pain defeats Jerry Lawler to become the CWA champion in Memphis.

February 12: Ivan Koloff, The Barbarian, & The Warlord beat Paul Ellering, Road Warrior Hawk, & Dusty Rhodes for the NWA six-man title in Philadelphia.

February 13: Hercules Ayala defeats Colons Colon for the WWC Universal championship in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

February 14: Chris Carter & Calypso Jim beat Jerry Graham Jr. & Don Kent in a tournament final to become the WWA tag team champions in Toledo, Ohio.

February 15: Tom Prichard downs Jonathan Boyd to win the Alabama title in Birmingham, Alabama ... Jack Victory & John Tatum are declared the Texas tag team champions via decision by World Class officials.

2/15: Prichard victorious

February 29: Steve & Shaun Simpson defeat Jack Victory & John Tatum for the Wild West tag team title in Ft. Worth, Texas.

March 5: Steve Armstrong & Tracy Smothers down Ron Fuller & Jimmy Golden for the Southeast Continental tag team title in Dothan, Alabama.

March 8: The Rock 'n' Roll Express wins the World Organization Wrestling tag team title from The Fabulous Fargos in Mobile, Alabama.

March 9: Toshiaki Kamada & Sampson Fuyuki defeat Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue for the All-Japan Asian tag team title in Yokohama, Japan ... Genichiro Tenryu defeats Stan Hansen for the PWF title in Yokohama, Japan ... Ken Wayne beats Larry Hamilton for the Southeast U.S. junior heavyweight championship in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

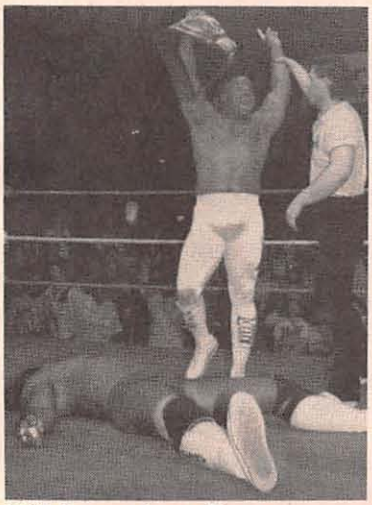
March 12: Bruiser Brody wins the All-Japan International title from Jumbo Tsuruta in Tokyo.

March 17: Rick Patterson & Stevie Ray win the Central States tag team title from Bob Brown & The Cuban Assassin in Kansas City, Kansas ... Mike George defeats Masa Chono for the WWA title in Kansas City.

March 19: Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka defeat The Midnight Rockers for the AWA World tag team title in Las Vegas ... Chris Benoit wins the British Commonwealth title from Gama Singh in Calgary, Alberta ... Buddy Landell beats Doug Furnas for the Tennessee title in Knoxville, Tennessee.

★1988 THE YEAR IN REVIEW★

March 20: Shaun & Steve Simpson win the World Class Texas tag team title from Jack Victory & John Tatum in Ft. Worth, Texas.



3/25: Iceman downs Kerry

March 25: Iceman Parsons upsets Kerry Von Erich for the World Class title in Dallas.

March 27: Barry Windham & Lex Luger defeat Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard for the NWA World tag team title in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Randy Savage defeats Ted DiBiase in a tournament final for the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV in Atlantic City, New Jersey ... Demolition upsets Rick Martel & Tito Santana for the WWF World tag team title in Atlantic City.

March 28: The Bruise Brothers down Max Pain & Gary Young for the CWA tag team title in Memphis ... Tony Anthony surprises Tom Prichard for the Alabama title in Birmingham, Alabama.

April 8: John Tatum & Jack Victory take the World Class Texas tag team title from Steve & Shaun Simpson in Ft. Worth, Texas.

April 9: Carlos Colon regains the WWC Universal title from Hercules Ayala in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

April 14: Jumbo Tsuruta regains the All-Japan International title from Bruiser Brody in Sendai, Japan.

April 18: Ron Starr & Bob Holly defeat The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the World Organization Wrestling tag team title in Pensacola, Florida.

April 20: Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard regain the NWA World tag team title from Lex Luger & Barry Windham in Jacksonville, Florida.

April 23: Chris & Mark Youngblood defeat Dan Kroffat & Bobby Jaggers for the WWC Caribbean tag team title in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico ... The Invader beats Tony Falk for the WWC junior heavyweight title in Guaynabo.

April 26: The Fantastics defeat The Midnight Express for the U.S. tag team title in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

May 2: The Cuban Assassins defeat The Bruise Brothers for the CWA tag team title in Memphis.

May 6: Makhan Singh upsets Owen Hart for the Stampede North American title in Calgary, Alberta.

May 7: Steve Doll & Scott Peterson stun Mike Golden & The Avalanche for the Pacific Northwest tag team title in Portland, Oregon.

May 8: Tatsumi Fujinami beats Big Van Vader for the IWGP title in Tokyo ... John Tatum & Jack Victory down Steve & Shaun Simpson for the Wild West tag team title in Irving, Texas ... Kerry Von Erich wins the World Class title from Iceman Parsons in Irving.

5/9: Lawler's World victory

May 9: Jerry Lawler tops Curt Hennig for the AWA World championship in Memphis.

May 13: Barry Windham wins a tournament final over Nikita Koloff for the U.S. title in Houston.

May 14: Super Black Ninja downs Miguel Perez Jr. for the WWC Puerto Rican title in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

May 21: Chris & Mark Youngblood win the WWC tag team title from Kendo Nagasaki & Mr. Pogo in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

May 22: Ken Wayne & Dan Davis win the Continental tag team title from Steve Armstrong & Tracey Smothers in Montgomery, Alabama.

May 23: Max Pain forfeits the CWA title to Brickhouse Brown in Memphis.

June 4: Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu defeat Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara for the PWF tag team title in Sapporo, Japan.

June 8: Judy Martin & Lelani Kai win the WWF women's tag team title from The Jumping Bomb Angels in Omiya City, Japan.

June 10: Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu win the All-Japan International tag team title from The Road Warriors in Tokyo ... Masa Saito & Riki Choshu defeat Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura for the IWGP International tag team title in Hiroshima, Japan.

June 11: Dan Kroffat & Bobby Jaggers beat Chris & Mark Youngblood for the WWC Caribbean tag team title in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

June 18: Buddy Landell wins the U.S.A. Tennessee championship from Wendell Cooley in Knoxville, Tennessee ... TNT defeats Hercules Ayala for the WWC Caribbean title in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

June 24: Johnny Smith defeats Chris Benoit for the British Commonwealth title in Calgary, Alberta ... Tatsumi Fujinami defeats Riki Choshu for the IWGP title in Osaka, Japan ... Shiro Koshinaka wins the IWGP junior heavyweight title from Owen Hart in Osaka ... The Mongolian Stomper beats The Bullet for the U.S.A. title in Knoxville, Tennessee.

June 27: Max Pain beats Brickhouse Brown for the CWA heavyweight championship in Memphis ... Scott Steiner & Billy Travis win the CWA tag team championship from Gary Young & Don Bass in Memphis.

July 1: Kerry & Kevin Von Erich win the World Class tag team title from Iceman Parsons & Terry Taylor in Dallas.

July 4: Terry Taylor defaults the World Class Texas title to Kevin Von Erich in Dallas.

July 9: Dusty Rhodes & The Road Warriors defeat Tully Blanchard, Ric Flair, & Arn Anderson for the NWA six-man title in Chicago.

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July 10: Phil Hickerson surprises Max Pain for the CWA title in Memphis . . . The Midnight Express defeats The Fantastics for the NWA U.S. tag team title in Baltimore.

July 16: Super Black Ninja & Kendo Nagasaki win the WWC tag title from Chris & Mark Youngblood in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

July 18: Humongous & Shane Douglas defeat Bob Carter & Mark Pyle for the Continental tag team title in Birmingham, Alabama . . . Ken Wayne beats Dan Davis for the Continental U.S. junior heavyweight title in Birmingham.

July 21: The Mongolian Stomper beats Doug Furnas to win the U.S.A. title in Johnson City, Tennessee.

July 22: Jerry Morrow & The Cuban Assassin defeat Brian Pillman & Bruce Hart for the Stampede International tag team championship in Calgary, Alberta . . . Wendell Cooley regains the U.S.A. Tennessee title from Buddy Landell in Knoxville, Tennessee . . . Scott Armstrong upsets Nelson Royal for the U.S.A. junior heavyweight title in Knoxville.

July 23: Hercules Ayala wins the WWC Universal title from Carlos Colon in Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

July 31: Yoshiaki Yatsu & Jumbo Tsuruta upset Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy for the All-Japan International tag team championship in Hakodate, Japan.

August 5: Scott Peterson wins the Pacific Northwest title from The Grappler in Eugene, Oregon . . . Iceman Parsons defeats Kerry Von Erich (substituting for injured brother Kevin Von Erich) for the World Class Texas title in Dallas.

August 6: Ricky Santana wins the WWC Puerto Rican title from Super Black Ninja in San Juan, Puerto Rico . . . Brad & Bart Batten defeat Mr. Pogo & Kendo Nagasaki in San Juan.

August 8: Ken Wayne captures the Continental U.S. junior heavyweight title from Dan Davis in Birmingham, Alabama.

August 12: The Samoan Swat Team defeats Kevin & Kerry Von Erich for the World Class tag team title in Dallas.

August 13: Buddy Landell upsets TNT for the WWC Caribbean title in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

August 15: The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs beat Billy Travis & Scott Steiner for the CWA tag team title in Memphis.

9/10: Express corners the gold

August 29: Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara defeat Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu for the PWF tag team title in Tokyo . . . The Ultimate Warrior destroys The Honky Tonk Man in 31 seconds to capture the WWF Intercontinental title during SummerSlam 88 in New York.

September 10: The Midnight Express upsets Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard for the NWA World tag team title in Philadelphia.

September 12: The Samoan Swat Team wins the World Class Texas tag team title from Jimmy Jack Funk & John Tatum in Ft. Worth, Texas.

September 13: Dick Slater wins the Florida Championship Wrestling heavyweight championship from "Dangerous" Dan Spivey in Tampa, Florida.

September 17: Ron Garvin beats Greg Gagne for the AWA television title in Nashville, Tennessee . . . TNT defeats Buddy Landell to win the WWC Caribbean championship in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

September 19: The Samoan Swat Team regains the World Class tag team title from Michael Hayes & Steve Cox in Memphis.

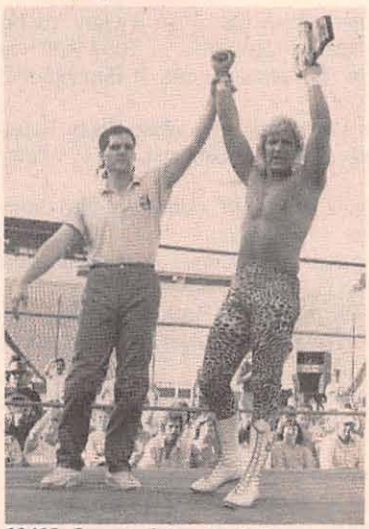
September 20: The Terminator & Johnny Ace capture the FCW tag team title from Mike Graham & Steve Keirn in Tampa, Florida . . . Steve Doll & Scott Peterson beat Buddy Rose & The Avalanche to win the Pacific Northwest tag team title in Portland, Oregon.

September 23: Chavo Guerrero beats Jack Armstrong for the ACCW title in Lancaster, California.

September 24: Peter Maivia Jr. & Mando Guerrero win the ACCW tag team belts from The Lords of Discipline in Victorville, California.

October 3: Tom Prichard defeats Tony Anthony in a tournament final to become the Continental champion in Birmingham, Alabama.

October 7: Lance Idol & Chris Benoit defeat The Cuban Commandos to win the Stampede International tag team title in Calgary, Alberta.



10/15: Jarrett claims the belt

October 15: Jeff Jarrett wins the World Class light heavyweight title from Eric Embry in Dallas . . . Steve Cox & Michael Hayes defeat The Samoan Swat Team for the World Class tag team title in Dallas . . . Tatsumi Fujinami defeats The Grappler for the Pacific Northwest title in Portland, Oregon.

October 17: The Samoan Swat Team defeats Steve Cox & Michael Hayes for the World Class tag team title in Ft. Worth, Texas.

October 23: Jerry Lawler wins the World Class heavyweight title from Kerry Von Erich in Memphis . . . Cactus Jack & Gary Young win a tournament final over Bill Dundee & Todd Morton for the Championship Wrestling Association tag team title in Memphis.

October 29: The Road Warriors win the NWA World tag team title from The Midnight Express in New Orleans . . . The Grappler and Abughdadien capture the Pacific Northwest tag team championship from Steve Doll and Scott Peterson in Portland, Oregon . . . Top Gun defeats Al Madril for the Pacific Northwest television championship.

November 4: Kerry Von Erich captures the World Class heavyweight title from Jerry Lawler in Dallas (Lawler, the dual WCCW and AWA World heavyweight champion, placed only the WCCW on the line in this bout). □

The ballots have been cast. The votes are in. The experts have spoken. You—the fans—have chosen the winners in 10 important categories. On the pages that follow we proudly present your choices for the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '88 awards!

THE PESSIMISTS PREDICTED doom. The experts said it couldn't last long. But almost five years after pro wrestling's incredible resurgence in the middle of this decade, the sport is still going strong. This is reflected by stable attendance at wrestling cards across the country, high TV ratings, and the continued growth of the pay-per-view industry, a growth led by pro wrestling.

It's also reflected in the number of votes we received for the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '88 awards. Over 66,000 votes—roughly the same as last year's total—had been received by the December 1 deadline. More ballots were coming in every day. Collectively, they give the best indication of what is going on in wrestling and how it affects you.

Your ballots made it clear that three groups dominated wrestling in 1988: The Four Horsemen, The Megapowers, and The Megabucks. Of the 10 awards you were asked to vote upon (the Editors' Award is chosen by the staff of *PWI*), six were won by members of these three cliques.

Randy Savage (Megapowers) won Most Popular and Wrestler of the Year; Andre the Giant (Megabucks) won Most Hated and Match of the Year for his February 5 showdown with Hulk Hogan (Megapowers); J.J. Dillon (Four Horsemen) won Manager of the Year; and Ric Flair (Four Horsemen) vs. Lex Luger was chosen Feud of the Year.

So what does this mean? Well, in 1988 the NWA and WWF were once again the most visible federations in the sport. It also means that television's influence over wrestling is stronger than ever. The Match of the Year was seen on prime-time national network television, and the match that provided the impetus for Luger vs. Flair to become Feud of the Year was aired on national pay-per-view TV. Sting, who won Most Improved, was also seen on several live prime time events this year, proving that, in televised wrestling, bigger *is* better.

But while the Horsemen, Megapowers, and Megabucks dominated the awards, they by no means dominated the voting. In 1987, only two categories were decided by fewer than 2,000 votes, and the average vote spread between a winner and a first runner-up was 2,842—up 17 percent from the previous year.

This year, the margin between winner and first runner-up was 1,596, down 43.8 percent from last year. Only two categories (Most Improved Wrestler of the Year and Wrestler of the Year) were decided by *more* than 2,000 votes. The winning margin was less than 1,000 votes—or a mere 1.5 percent of the votes cast—in four categories (Rookie of the Year, Feud of the Year, Most Hated Wrestler of the Year, and Match of the Year).

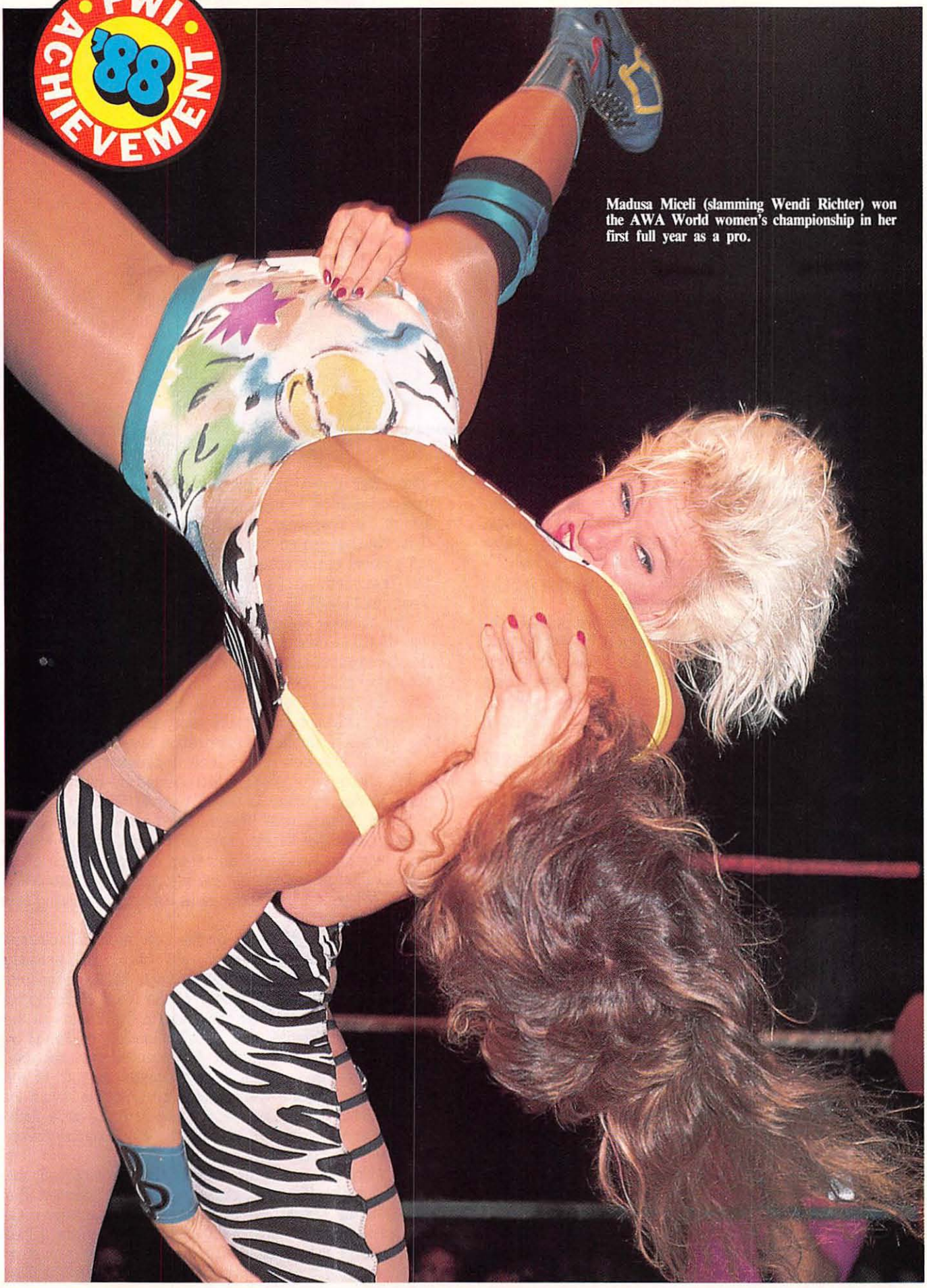
The average number of "Votes for Others," however, was 16,401—down only 6 percent from last year. This, indeed, indicates that your opinions are still diverse. Wrestling fans today are exposed to a wider variety of federations than ever before, thanks to cable, the continued national expansion of virtually every major federation, and the increased amount of information available.

Indeed, although only three federations—the WWF, NWA, and the AWA—were represented by award winners (Jerry Lawler wrestled in the CWA and World Class, but received "Inspirational Wrestler of the Year" because of his reign as AWA World champion), virtually every federation was represented by a runner-up. So, while much of the national media likes to give the impression that the NWA and WWF are the only federations that exist, wrestling fans know otherwise.

Most Improved Wrestler of the Year was your clearest award choice. Sting came within 433 votes of accumulating 20,000 votes, which in the past six years has been accomplished only by 1987 Wrestler of the Year Hulk Hogan (20,347 votes). The tightest race was in the Rookie of the Year voting, where Madusa Miceli edged Chris Benoit by only 335 votes, an astounding .5 percent of the total vote.

In the lists of previous years' winners, not all of the categories go back to 1972. This is because the award for Most Improved Wrestler was created in 1978, while Feud of the Year was instituted in 1986; the *PWI* Editors' Award was first presented in 1981.

The following pages are entirely the work of you, the fans, and are an important chapter in wrestling history. The Achievement Awards are the only way we can truly measure who were the stars of the past year; they are a vital barometer of the sport. Be proud of the role you have played and enjoy your handiwork—the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '88 Awards.



Madusa Miceli (slamming Wendi Richter) won the AWA World women's championship in her first full year as a pro.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

SINCE THE *PWI* Achievement Awards first began in 1972, no woman has ever won any of the 10 awards now presented. That includes Wendi Richter, who was as responsible as anyone for wrestling's resurgence in 1985, and Elizabeth, first runner-up for "Manager of the Year" this year.

So, in a year when no male rookie made a major impact, Madusa Miceli won the AWA World Women's title almost instantly upon bursting into the sport. She added luster—and beauty—to a lackluster rookie crop, and became the first woman ever to win a coveted *PWI* Achievement Award.

"You can say what you want about her methods," wrote Wendi Stevens of Minneapolis, "but she's never avoided a challenger. Nobody knew who she was a year ago, but now everybody knows who Madusa Miceli is. If she doesn't win, your readers are sexist—which I suspect they are, anyway."

Actually, Madusa just narrowly edged Chris Benoit in the balloting. The 335-vote spread was 1988's smallest margin between a winner and a first runner-up. And Madusa received 67 *less* votes than last year's first runner-up, Big (Bossman) Bubba Rogers. But when looking at the list of this year's rookies, it appears that Madusa has the best potential for longevity.

"I think she'll be around for a long time," wrote Jeremy Suthern of Trenton, New Jersey. "She really seems to love the sport and is intent on proving she's the best."

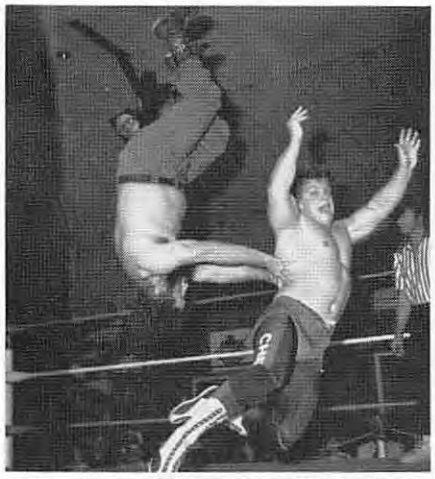
MADUSA MICELI
13,285 votes

PAST WINNERS

1987: Owen Hart
1986: Lex Luger
1985: Nord the Barbarian
1984: Mike Von Erich
1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.
1982: Brad Armstrong
1981: David Sammartino
1980: Terry Taylor
1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
1978: Tommy Rich
1977: Rick Steamboat
1976: Bob Backlund
1975: Ric Flair
1974: Larry Zbyszko
1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)
1972: Mike Graham

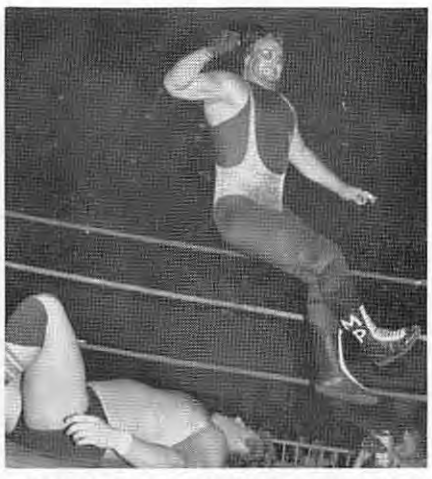
RUNNERS-UP

CHRIS BENOIT
12,950 votes



First runner-up: Owen Hart won the award last year, and Chris Benoit almost won it this year; Stampede has become quite a breeding ground for young wrestlers. In 1988, Benoit was British Commonwealth champ, and he currently holds the International tag belts with Lance Idol.

MAX PAIN
11,258 votes



Second runner-up: "This man will be Adrian Street one day!" was among the more complimentary remarks made about Max Pain when he first broke into the sport, but Pain soon made it clear that he can wrestle, too. This offbeat newcomer held both the CWA heavyweight and tag team belts at one point. Currently out of the sport, Pain will be a force if he returns.

SCOTT STEINER
10,836 votes

Third runner-up: The 1988 rookie crop was slim—so slim that Steiner received the majority of his votes based on his victory in the CWA's Renegade Rampage. Although Steiner has failed to contend for a major title since then, one can look forward to continued improvement from the brother of NWA star Rick Steiner. And he's smarter, too!

VOTES FOR OTHERS (18,285):

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Brian Pillman, Ricky Rice, Soldat Ustinov, Steven Casey, D.I. Bob Carter, and John Paul.

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

JERRY LAWLER
17,285 votes

IN 1985, MIKE Von Erich overcame a near-fatal bout with toxic shock syndrome. In 1986, Chris Adams battled back after nearly getting blinded and won the World Class title. In 1987, Nikita Koloff dedicated his career to the fallen Magnum T.A.

In 1988, Jerry Lawler didn't have to deal with tragedy; he merely (!) restored integrity to the AWA World heavyweight title and brought back the concept of the traveling champion. For the first time in many years, a world championship was regularly defended outside the home federation.

"It wasn't that he inspired me like Nikita or Chris did, it's just that I hope he inspired *other* wrestlers and champions to do what he did," wrote Steve Christ of Birmingham, Alabama. "If Ric Flair and Randy Savage learn from his example, then Lawler will have done more for the sport than anyone in history."

Lawler defended his belt against, among others, the CWA's Bill Dundee, IWGP champ Tatsumi Fujinami from Japan, SCW's Tommy Rich, CWF stars "Nightmare" Ken Wayne and Austin Idol, World Class Texas champion Iceman Parsons, and WCCW champ Kerry Von Erich.

Lawler's goal is to unify *all* the world titles so that there'll be only one true champion in wrestling. That may be unrealistic for the immediate future; for now, however, Lawler is arguably the only true champion in the hearts of many fans.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Nikita Koloff
1986: Chris Adams
1985: Mike Von Erich
1984: Sgt. Slaughter
1983: Hulk Hogan
1982: Roddy Piper
1981: Bob Backlund
1980: Junkyard Dog
1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
1978: Blackjack Mulligan
1977: Bob Backlund
1976: Bruno Sammartino
1975: Mike McCord
1974: Dick Murdoch
1973: Johnny Valentine
1972: Lord Al Hays

RUNNERS-UP

KERRY VON ERICH
15,288 votes

First runner-up: In late 1987, Kerry came back from a near-crippling car accident and returned to the ring. In 1988, the "Modern-Day Warrior" proved that he's *really* back. Kerry won the World Class heavyweight title and then battled AWA champ Jerry Lawler in a memorable series of matches. Most important, he proved that anything can be done—and done fairly.

ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL
10,837 votes

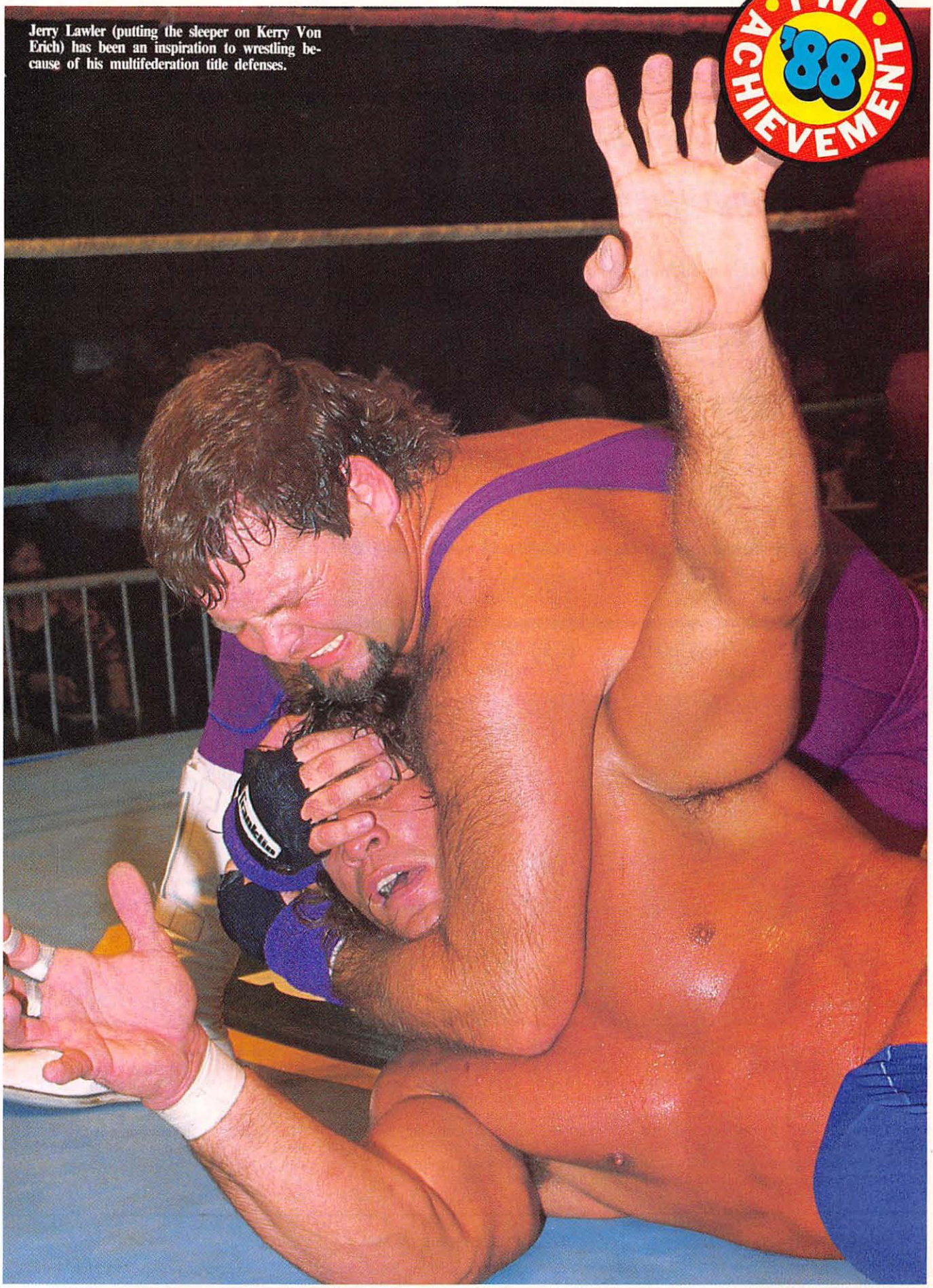
Second runner-up: "He came within a fraction of an inch of getting crushed to death," said one medical expert after the The Powers of Pain nearly crushed Animal's head with a weight. As it was, Animal almost lost sight in one eye. How did he come back so quickly? "Courage," wrote Rhonda Petty of Chicago. "That's what the Warriors are all about."

JAKE ROBERTS
7,148 votes

Third runner-up: "You know what inspires me?" wrote Jennifer Heftler of New York City. "A man who fights for the woman he loves." That's Jake "The Snake" Roberts, who defended his wife Cheryl's honor in a violent war against the arrogant and egotistical Rick Rude.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (16,074):

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Hacksaw Duggan, Jason the Terrible, Nikita Koloff, Stan Hansen, Jim Garvin, and Bruiser Brody.



Jerry Lawler (putting the sleeper on Kerry Von Erich) has been an inspiration to wrestling because of his multifederation title defenses.

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

STING
19,567 votes

IN ONLY A year, Sting has developed from an up-and-coming young kid into the man most likely to win Ric Flair's NWA World title.

It was that type of 1988 for Sting.

Sting, in fact, is one of the few wrestlers who was actually *helped* by the NWA's decision to take over the old UWF. He immediately moved into the larger spotlight and took advantage of the situation. He was an immediate hit with the fans and used their inspiration to become a better wrestler. More important, Sting benefited from the increased quality of competition in the NWA. He's improved with each match against Flair and, in many ways, is equal to or better than the "Nature Boy."

"His aerial abilities are absolutely astounding," wrote Joseph Hawkins of Charlotte, North Carolina. "He also has incredible stamina and amazing quickness. When you really think about it, most people didn't know who he was at the start of last year. But that match against Flair on the first 'Clash of the Champions' card changed everything. Just awesome!"

Readers gave Sting the highest vote total of any wrestler in this year's balloting. The 5,215 vote difference between Sting and first runner-up The Ultimate Warrior was also the largest such margin.

Which only proves that Sting is getting better much faster than anybody else.

And 1989 could be *the* year.

PAST WINNERS

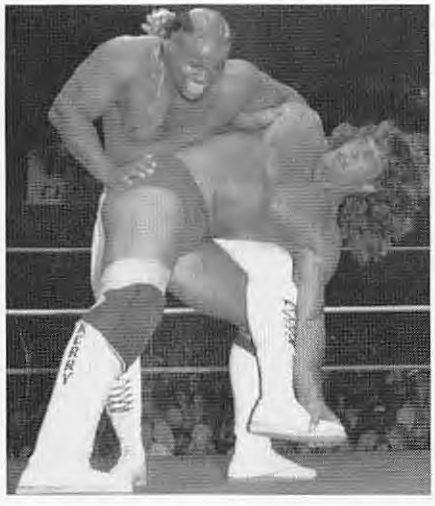
1987: Curt Hennig
1986: Terry Gordy
1985: Steve Williams
1984: Billy Jack Haynes
1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
1982: Barry Windham
1981: Kevin Sullivan
1980: Tony Atlas
1979: Tommy Rich
1978: Dino Bravo

RUNNERS-UP

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
14,352 votes

First runner-up: It's entirely conceivable that by the end of 1989, both former members of The Blade Runners will be world champions: Sting in the NWA, and The Ultimate Warrior in the WWF. This muscleman from Queens, New York, invaded the WWF, ambushed The Honky Tonk Man, and won the Intercontinental title. Quite an achievement for a man with limited scientific skills.

ICEMAN PARSONS
9,357 votes



Second runner-up: The answer is: *The tag team title.* The question is: *What is the only World Class title Iceman Parsons didn't win in 1988?* Amazing, isn't it? And at press time, Iceman still wore the WCCW Texas belt. Parsons has certainly flourished under the guidance of manager Buddy Roberts. Now the next question is: *What can he do for an encore?*

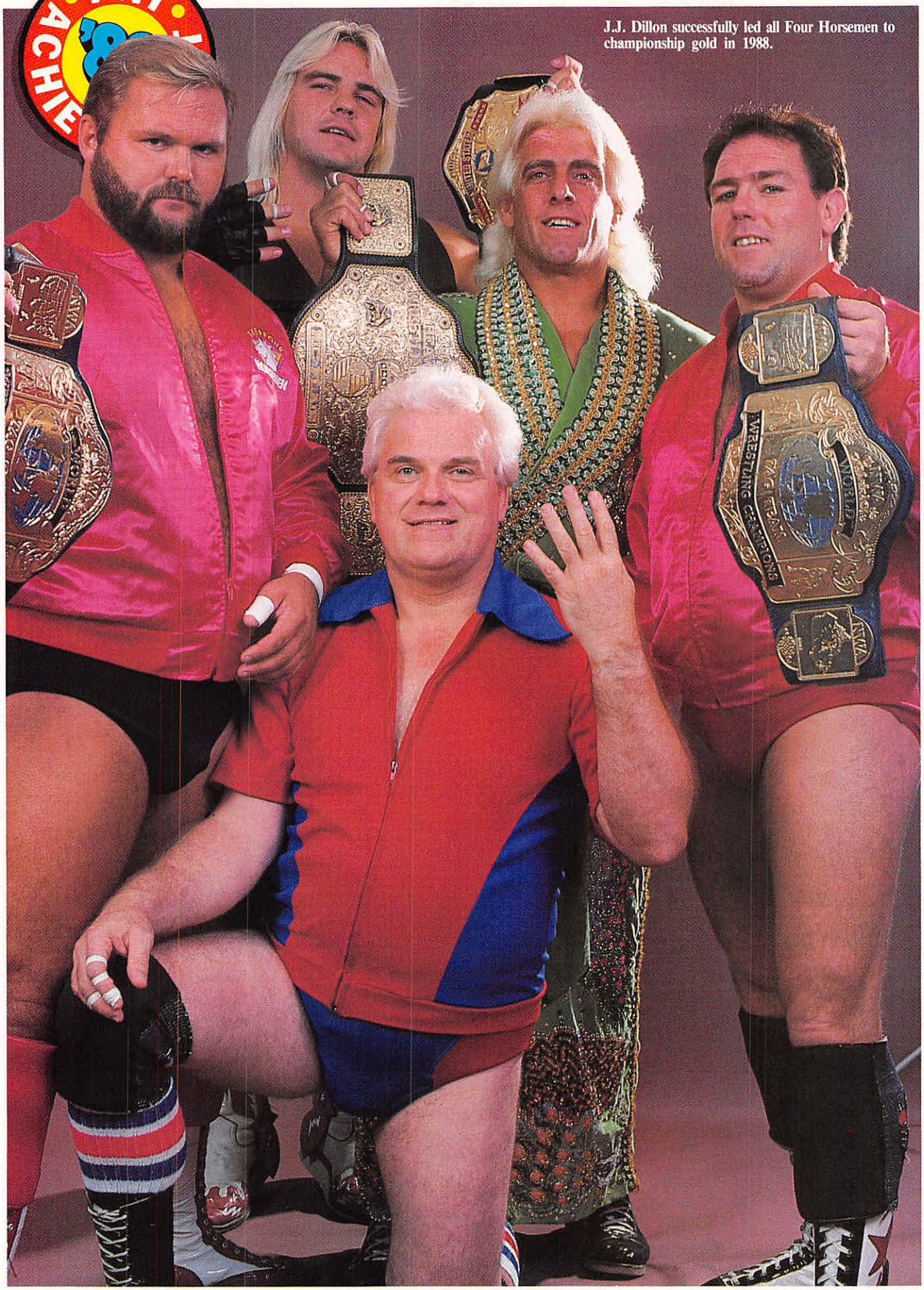
JEFF JARRETT
7,103 votes

Third runner-up: Yeah, we know. He has a great poster. But Jeff Jarrett is also one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the sport, as we all learned in 1988. Eric Embry found out the hard way. Jarrett beat him for the World Class light heavyweight title on October 15 in one of the finest scientific battles of the year.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (16,252):

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Big Bossman, Jerry Lawler, Lex Luger, Don Muraco, Al Perez, and The Warlord.

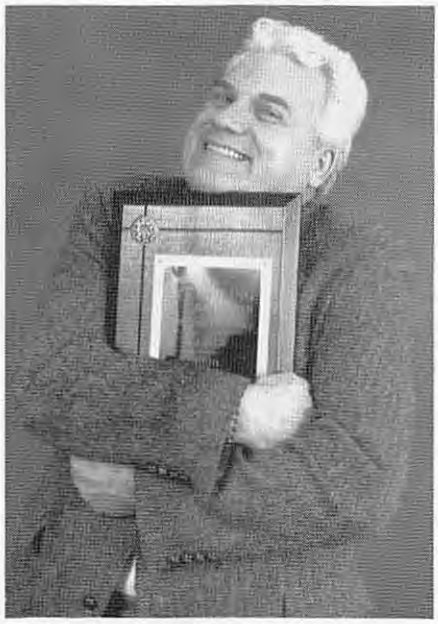
Sting's improvement is evident as he skillfully executes the scorpion leglock on Ric Flair.



J.J. Dillon successfully led all Four Horsemen to championship gold in 1988.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

JAMES J. DILLON
13,838 votes



TULLY BLANCHARD AND Arn Anderson may have left the NWA in a cloud of dust, but it didn't obscure J.J. Dillon's incredible year. At one time, Dillon managed the NWA World champion (Ric Flair), the U.S champ (Barry Windham), and the NWA World tag team champs (Blanchard and Anderson).

With Tully and Arn, Dillon was four-for-four; now that they're gone, he's still two-for-two. And you can't argue with that.

Still, the race for Manager of the Year was extremely close. Dillon outdistanced runner-up Elizabeth by a mere 1,553 votes. The votes for others totaled 22,285, the largest by far of any category, indicating that this was, indeed, a good year for many managers.

But it was simply a great year for Dillon, who earned Manager of the Year for the third time (he won back-to-back accolades in 1982 and '83), equaling the standard set by Capt. Lou Albano.

"You know, I'm no fan of Dillon's, and I can't stand the Horsemen, but his record was really something else," wrote Bill Dale of Toronto. "You're talking about a guy that doesn't have one non-champion in his stable. But more importantly, I thought he handled the departure of Tully and Arn very well. He didn't rush out to find a replacement. He only wants quality wrestlers, and that's because he's a quality manager."

The best in the world. With the belts to prove it.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Jimmy Hart
1986: Capt. Lou Albano
1985: Jim Cornette
1984: Paul Ellering
1983: James J. Dillon
1982: James J. Dillon
1981: Capt. Lou Albano
1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
1979: Arnold Skaaland
1978: Arnold Skaaland
1977: The Grand Wizard
1976: Bobby Heenan
1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon
1974: Capt. Lou Albano
1973: The Grand Wizard
1972: Bobby Heenan

RUNNERS-UP

ELIZABETH
12,285 votes

First runner-up: The lovely manager of WWF World champion Randy "Macho Man" Savage also has a perfect record—but she only manages one man. That's probably the main factor that kept her from becoming the first woman to win this award. Still, one can't deny what she did for Savage: Elizabeth changed his direction and transformed him into a winner.

JIM CORNETTE
12,138 votes

Second runner-up: A very strong second runner-up, Cornette trailed Elizabeth by only 147 votes. In fact, if The Midnight Express had won the NWA tag belts earlier in the year, Cornette might have challenged Dillon for top honors. As it is, Cornette was voted second runner-up for the second consecutive year. He may have a big mouth, but one can't argue with his results.

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY
6,385 votes

Third runner-up: Dangerously received 996 fewer votes this year than he did in 1987 while being voted third runner-up. But that's a pretty good record for a man who's only been in the sport for two years. Dangerously is outrageous, controversial, and occasionally very funny. He also knows how to manage, as Eddie Gilbert, Randy Rose, and Dennis Condrey have learned.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (22,285):

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Hart, Mr. Fuji, Bobby Heenan, Diamond Dallas Page, and Downtown Bruno.

In the second half of 1988, Ric Flair and Lex Luger battled for the NWA World title dozens of times.

FEUD OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR vs. LEX LUGER
14,348 votes

WHEN LEX LUGER was a member of The Four Horsemen, he learned a lot from Ric Flair. He has said that Flair taught him how to be a champion. It was a lesson Luger took to heart; as far as Flair is concerned, he learned it too well.

The 1988 Flair-Luger series produced some classic matches, the most notable of which took place on July 10 in Baltimore as part of The Great American Bash. If not for a bleeding cut on his forehead, Luger almost certainly would have won Flair's NWA World title. But a Maryland rule prohibiting blood in the ring kept the title in Flair's hands.

Feeling cheated, Luger intensified his quest for the belt. In order to ensure Luger a fair chance in the face of Horseman interference, the NWA appointed former NFL star John Ayres as special referee for several Flair-Luger bouts. Although this helped Luger somewhat, Flair is still the champion.

"This has gone way beyond just wanting the title," Luger says. "I despise Flair and everything he stands for. Joining the Horsemen was the biggest mistake of my career. I can't tell you when and where it's gonna happen, but I *will* be the next NWA World champion. Watch out, Flair!"

"Do you really expect me to worry about that punk?" Flair replied. "If he's the number-one challenger, the 10 pounds of gold will remain around my waist for a long, long time. Even with his pal Ayres as ref, he can't win."

No respect and plenty of animosity. That's a *real* feud.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Four Horsemen vs. Superpowers & Road Warriors
1986: Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff

RUNNERS-UP

RICK RUDE vs. JAKE ROBERTS
13,924 votes

First runner-up: One sure way to anger a man is to pursue his wife, and that's exactly what Rick Rude did when he went after Jake Roberts' spouse Cheryl. Rude was even more tempted when Cheryl began to accompany Jake to ringside. In the end, Roberts had defended his wife's honor and humiliated his arrogant opponent.

KERRY VON ERICH vs. JERRY LAWLER
11,836 votes

Second runner-up: Their matches were originally intended to be a friendly title-unification series between AWA champ Jerry Lawler and World Class titlist Kerry Von Erich. But the more they fought, the more hatred developed between them. Now it's a battle for superiority, and neither man is giving an inch.

MEGAPOWERS vs. MEGABUCKS
10,959 votes

Third runner-up: In one sense, this feud ended at SummerSlam 88, where The Megapowers (Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage) convincingly defeated The Megabucks (Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant). But whether in singles matches or tag team contests, these four will continue go at it. That's called "Megaexcitement."

VOTES FOR OTHERS (15,926)

Some of the top vote-getting feuds that did not capture a runner-up spot include: Andre the Giant vs. Hacksaw Duggan, Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson vs. The Midnight Express, Brutus Beefcake vs. The Honky Tonk Man, Ted DiBiase vs. Randy Savage, Barbarian & Warlord vs. The Road Warriors, and Michael Hayes vs. Buddy Roberts.

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RANDY SAVAGE
17,928 votes

THEY WERE AN inseparable pair the entire year, and in the Achievement '88 voting they were almost as inseparable. The Megapowers, Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan, who formed perhaps the most memorable image of 1988 when they lofted Elizabeth upon their mighty shoulders after the WrestleMania IV title tournament, dominated the balloting for Most Popular Wrestler of the Year.

But let's face it: 1988 belonged to Randy Savage.

Last year, either Savage or Hogan would have won top honors, but the vote was split and Dusty Rhodes commanded enough popularity to take advantage of that fact. In 1988, Savage and Hogan combined for only 40.3 percent of the votes cast; this year, they combined for 51.1 percent, an almost unbeatable number.

"I wish I didn't have to make a decision," wrote Leonard Bogner of New York, "because, in my mind, The Megapowers were the most popular wrestlers of the year. But since I have to pick just one, it's Savage. All year, he never did anything to embarrass us fans. He stayed with us. I'll never forget the thrill he gave me at WrestleMania IV. He'll always be a part of my sports memories."

Part of this award, of course, belongs to Savage's beautiful manager, Elizabeth. "She's definitely the most popular wrestling personality of the year," wrote Steven Ford of San Francisco. "She made Randy our favorite."

PAST WINNERS

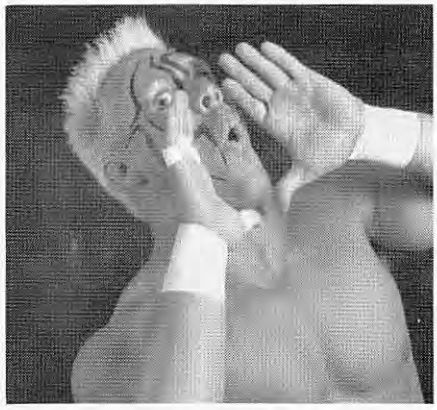
1987: Dusty Rhodes
1986: Roddy Piper
1985: Hulk Hogan
1984: Kerry Von Erich
1983: Jimmy Snuka
1982: Andre the Giant
1981: Tommy Rich
1980: Mr. Wrestling II
1979: Dusty Rhodes
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Andre the Giant
1976: Wahoo McDaniel
1975: Mil Mascaras
1974: Billy Robinson
1973: Chief Jay Strongbow
1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

RUNNERS-UP

HULK HOGAN
16,375 votes

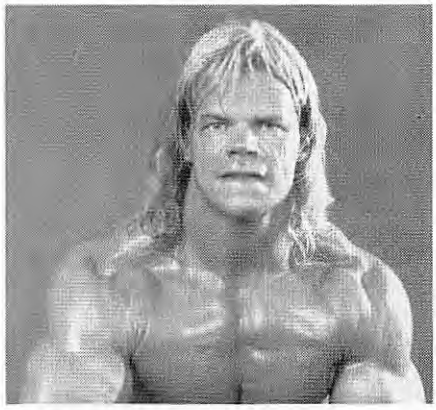
First runner-up: How is it possible that perhaps the most popular wrestler in history has only won this award once? Whatever the reason, Hogan was voted first runner-up for the third straight year since being voted Most Popular in 1985. "The Hulkster" can only blame himself, however: He's one of the main reasons why Savage is so popular.

STING
14,495 votes



Second runner-up: Look for this hot star to win the Most Popular award several times before he's through. Sting established himself as the most beloved wrestler in the NWA during 1988, eclipsing the ever-popular Dusty Rhodes. "He's exciting, he's daring, and he's gorgeous," wrote Tracy Clapman of Greensboro, North Carolina. "He just stole my heart."

LEX LUGER
12,293 votes



Third runner-up: If timing is everything, Lex Luger has very bad timing. Last year, "The Total Package" left The Four Horsemen and became a fan favorite just days after the ballot deadline for Achievement '87. One year later, Luger is still popular, but people are beginning to forget what he did. "We still love him," wrote Jill Lindeman of Miami. "But what has he done lately?"

VOTES FOR OTHERS (6,019)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Jerry Lawler, Dusty Rhodes, Hacksaw Duggan, The Ultimate Warrior, Jake Roberts, and Kerry Von Erich.

Much of Randy Savage's popularity can be attributed to having Elizabeth always at his side.

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

ANDRE THE GIANT
13,355 votes

ON THE FACE of it, this is a ridiculous award. Imagine receiving a plaque for being the most hated wrestler of the year! But for Andre the Giant, the award is particularly well-deserved.

For years, Andre was one of the most beloved men in the sport. Then, in 1987, he turned against Hulk Hogan, whom he once called a friend. Now Andre has redirected his fury at current WWF World champion Randy Savage.

"What has happened to Andre over the past two years is one of the saddest stories in wrestling history," says Rod Mitchell of Boston. "While he was never what you could call a great wrestler, I always had a lot of respect for Andre. Now he's a maniac. He doesn't even show any remorse."

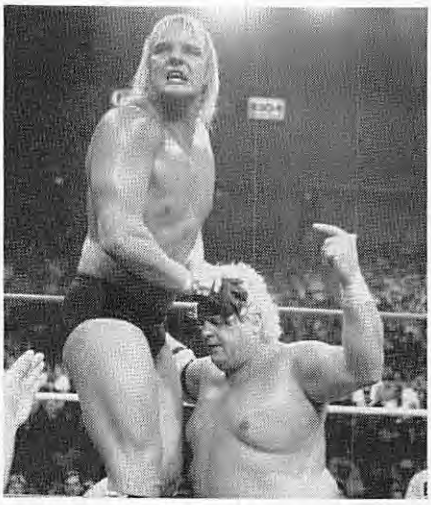
Even a group of fans from Andre's hometown of Grenoble, France, were dismayed by their hero's actions. Not believing that this was the same man who brought pride and honor to their city, they made a motion to have him barred forever. "Very shocking indeed," said Jacques Rousseau, who resigned as vice president of Andre's fan club there.

On this side of the Atlantic, the Giant has added to the fans' ire by feuding with Hacksaw Duggan. In addition, Andre is wrestling more aggressively than ever. With Bobby Heenan at his side, Andre is sure to turn up the heat in 1989.

PAST WINNERS
1987: Ric Flair
1986: Paul Orndorff
1985: Roddy Piper
1984: Roddy Piper
1983: Greg Valentine
1982: Ted DiBiase
1981: Ken Patera
1980: Larry Zbyszko
1979: Greg Valentine
1978: Ric Flair
1977: Ken Patera
1976: Stan Hansen
1975: Greg Valentine
1974: The Great Mephisto
1973: Superstar Graham
1972: The Sheik

RUNNERS-UP

BARRY WINDHAM
12,934 votes

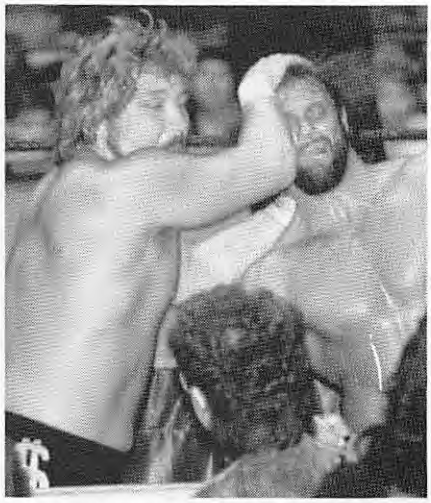


First runner-up: When Barry Windham joined The Four Horsemen, he turned his back on legions of fans who supported him in his battles against the sport's most evil rulebreakers. Now he adopts the same tactics that were once used against him. He may be better off financially under J.J. Dillon, but he's paid a price for his success.

EDDIE GILBERT
10,296 votes

Second runner-up: If throwing fire at an opponent is your idea of a fair fight, you'll love Eddie Gilbert. Thankfully, most of us reject Gilbert's cheating philosophy. But there is hope: Gilbert has returned to the NWA to aid his old friend Jim Garvin. Maybe next year he'll be a candidate for Most Popular Wrestler of the Year!

TED DiBIASE
9,168 votes

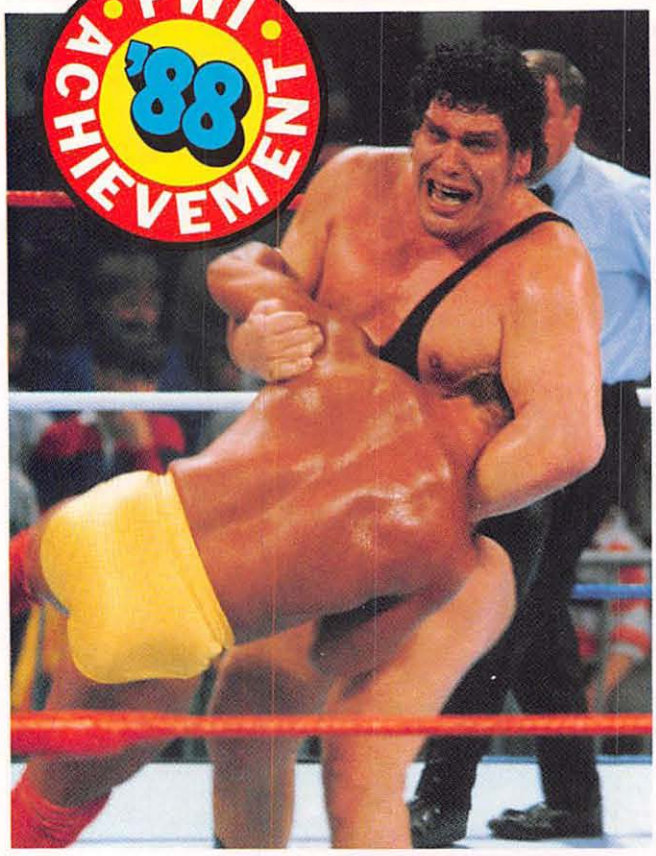


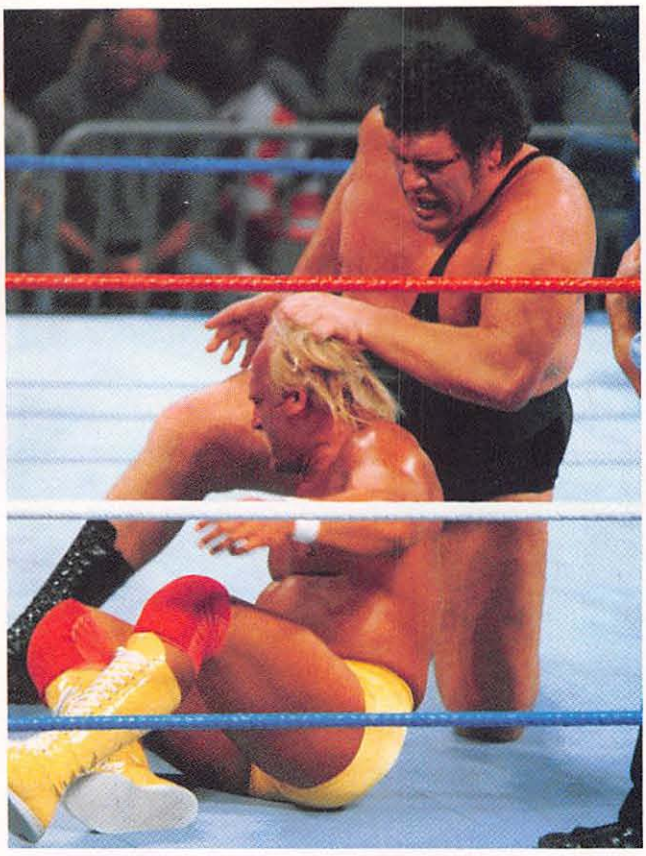
Third runner-up: Titles should be won in the ring, not bought like cornflakes. Ted DiBiase showed his true color—green—by attempting to purchase the WWF World championship from Andre the Giant. By arrogantly flaunting his considerable wealth, DiBiase turns off even those who admire his wrestling skills.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (20,296)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Ric Flair, The Honky Tonk Man, Iceman Parsons, Ronnie Garvin, Buddy Roberts, and Rick Rude.

Andre the Giant enjoys punishing Bam Bam Bigelow. This is not the same "gentle giant" who was once loved by the fans.





Andre swings Hogan into a pin (above left) after pulling him off the mat (above right). His WWF World title lost, Hogan wonders which Hebner is which (below). The circumstances surrounding this match led to the title tournament at WrestleMania IV.

MATCH OF THE YEAR

HULK HOGAN vs. ANDRE THE GIANT
13,285 votes

HULKAMANIA DIDN'T DIE on February 6, 1988, in Indianapolis, but it did suffer a serious setback. Hulk Hogan's four-year WWF World title reign came to an end at the hands of Andre the Giant, Ted DiBiase, and a crooked referee.

Andre, eager to avenge the loss he suffered to Hogan at WrestleMania III, attacked Hogan at the contract signing a month earlier. The title didn't matter; before the match, he had made a deal with DiBiase that if he won the belt, he'd give it to the "Million-Dollar Man." All Andre wanted was the complete humiliation of Hogan.

The match progressed to one of the strangest conclusions in years. When Andre covered Hogan for the pin, "The Hulkster" clearly kicked out at the count of two. But the referee made the three-count and awarded the championship to Andre. After a *40-second* title reign, Andre handed the belt to DiBiase.

Then the confusion started. A second referee, nearly identical to the first, ran into the ring. Both men looked like WWF ref Dave Hebner. It quickly became obvious to Hogan that an "evil twin" had been substituted—most likely by DiBiase. It was Dave's brother, Earl, who until then had been an NWA ref. Boiling mad, Hogan hoisted Earl up and heaved him out of the ring onto DiBiase and Virgil. Days later, the title was declared vacant.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage *(Steamboat wins WWF I-C title)*
1986: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair *(Dusty wins NWA title at Great American Bash)*
1985: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff *(Wrestlemania)*
1984: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair *(Von Erich captures NWA World title)*
1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair *(Race wins seventh NWA World title)*
1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka *(cage match)*
1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko *(cage match)*
1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race *(Rhodes wins NWA World title)*
1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham *(Backlund wins WWF World title)*
1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino *(Graham wins WWF World title)*
1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen
1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion
1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco
1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. *(Race wins first NWA World title)*
1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

RUNNERS-UP

STING vs. RIC FLAIR
12,848 votes

First runner-up: Ric Flair and Sting have had some outstanding matches, but none more exciting than this confrontation in Greensboro, North Carolina, on March 27. Both men wrestled brilliantly as the match went the full 45 minutes allotted. The only disappointment was that the bout was declared a draw; a winner was not chosen by a special three-person panel appointed for the task.

JERRY LAWLER vs. CURT HENNIG
10,954 votes

Second runner-up: Jerry Lawler will remember May 9, 1988, as the greatest moment of his career. In front of his hometown fans in Memphis, Lawler defeated Curt Hennig to win the AWA World title. The way "The King" has defended the belt since then is even further testament to his greatness.

ULTIMATE WARRIOR vs. THE HONKY TONK MAN
10,123 votes

Third runner-up: It only took 31 seconds for The Ultimate Warrior to vanquish The Honky Tonk Man and win the Intercontinental title on August 29 at Madison Square Garden. Despite Honky Tonk's lack of wrestling skills, the speed with which the Warrior won the match was astonishing.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (15,928)

Some of the top vote-getting matches that did not capture a runner-up spot include: Kerry Von Erich winning the World Class title from Al Perez on March 6 in Dallas; Randy Savage's victory over Ted DiBiase in the final of the WrestleMania IV title tournament on March 27; Sting and Lex Luger's April 23 victory over Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in the final of the Crockett Cup; Ric Flair's victory over Lex Luger on July 10 in Baltimore; The Megapowers' defeat of The Megabucks on August 29 at SummerSlam 88.

For the fourth time in six years, The Road Warriors have been voted the best team in the sport.

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

ROAD WARRIORS
14,924 votes

THIS WAS THE year The Road Warriors said "Enough! We're sick of other people telling us what to do! From now on, it's us first, everybody else last!"

It may or may not come as a surprise that the votes started pouring in for The Legion of Doom *after* they brutalized Sting and *before* they won the NWA World tag team title from The Midnight Express. Many of you like the Warriors to be mean and nasty. The team you voted for was the team that dominated this award from 1983 through 1985, the team that didn't care *what* the fans thought.

It seems that those days are back.

"The Warriors lost a lot of their competitive edge when they won the fans' cheers," wrote Carl Benson of Atlanta. "I think they got complacent. They felt successful and they lost the hunger—and the anger—that characterized their early years in the sport. As a result, they didn't win any titles."

"It wasn't the same Warriors over the last two years," wrote Monica Allbright of Minneapolis. "They looked the same, but they didn't have the same energy or drive. Now they do. The energy is back, the drive is back, and the excitement is back. Most of all, The Legion of Doom—the *real* Legion of Doom—is back in the NWA, and that's good news for everybody."

Except the Warriors' opponents.

PAST WINNERS

1987: The Midnight Express
1986: The Rock 'n' Roll Express
1985: The Road Warriors
1984: The Road Warriors
1983: The Road Warriors
1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
1976: The Executioners
1975: Gene & Ole Anderson
1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant
1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens
1972: Bruiser & Crusher

RUNNERS-UP

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
13,825 votes

First runner-up: When Jim Cornette challenged Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to a series of matches for the NWA World tag team title, he knew he had two world-class athletes to back up his boast. Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane confirmed their manager's confidence in them by winning the World belts—even as they held the U.S. tag title!

DEMOLITION
11,589 votes

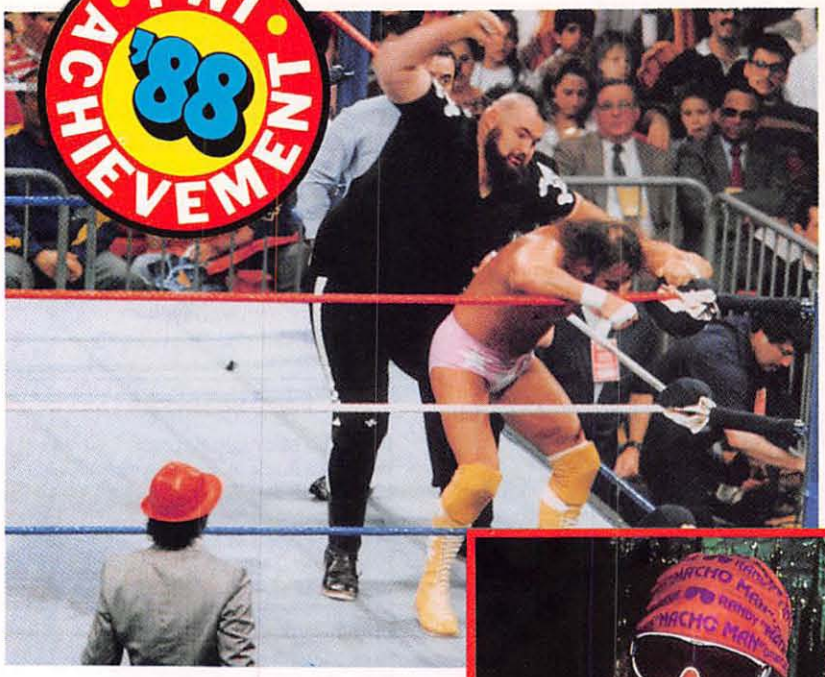
Second runner-up: Little more than a year ago, Demolition were regarded as Road Warrior ripoffs. That perception changed at WrestleMania IV when Ax and Smash crushed Rick Martel and Tito Santana to win the WWF World tag title. They still have the belts, and it doesn't look like anyone's going to stop them soon.

TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
8,248 votes

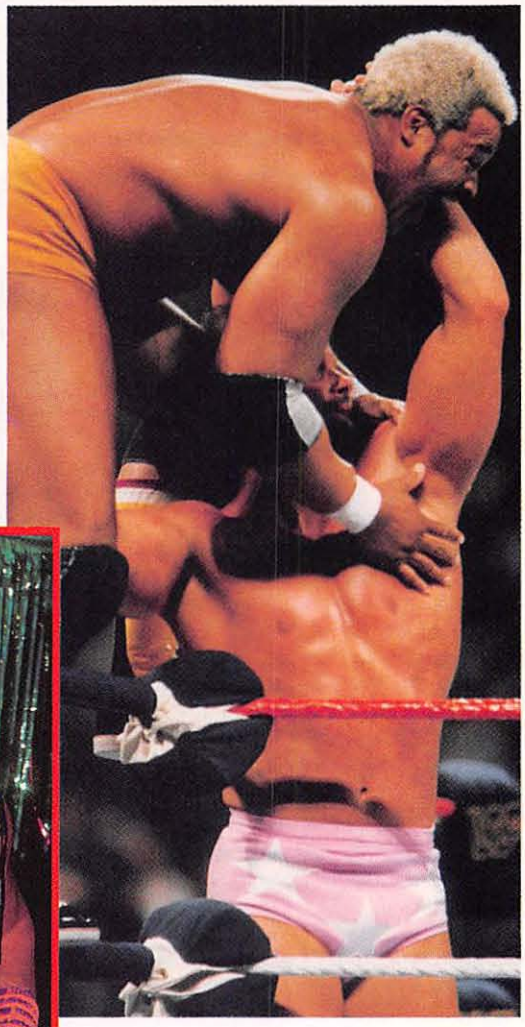
Third runner-up: As members of The Four Horsemen, Blanchard and Anderson established a record of tag team excellence over two lengthy reigns as NWA World champs. Though we may never know the real reason they left for the WWF, we do know that as Bobby Heenan's "Brainbusters" they will continue to be a first-rate partnership.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (18,358):

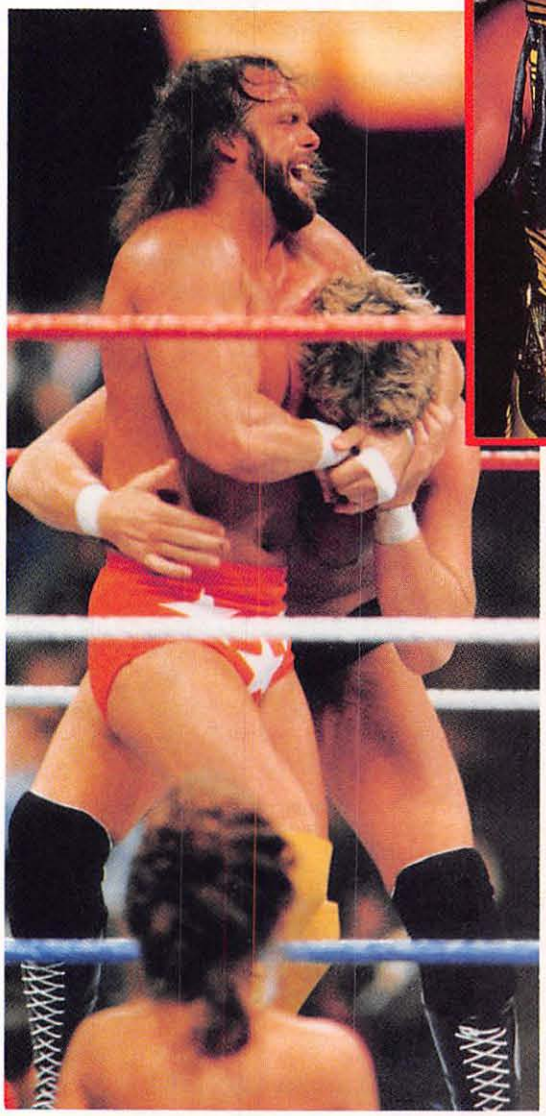
Some of the top vote-getting teams that did not capture a runner-up spot include: Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond, Warlord & Barbarian, The Fantastics, The Hart Foundation, Shaun & Steve Simpson, and Kerry & Kevin Von Erich.

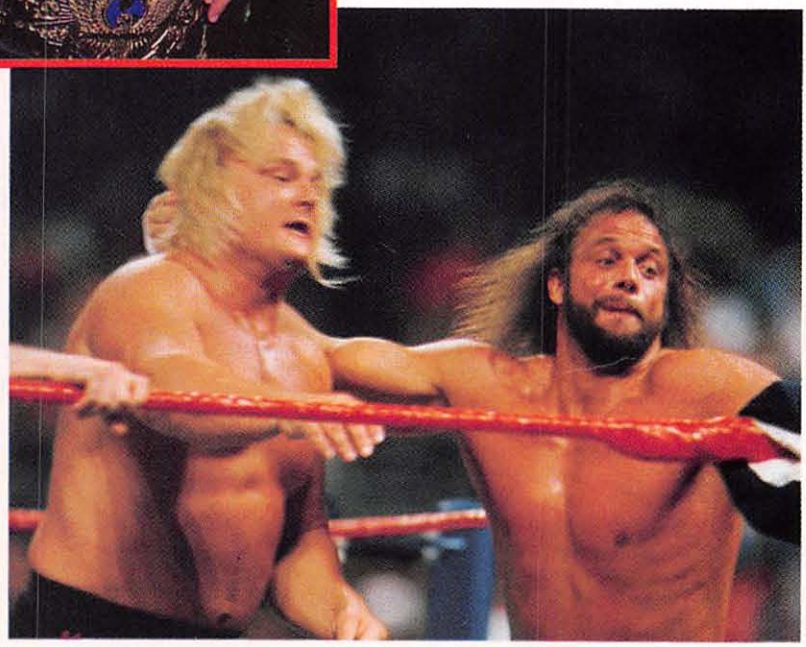


One Man Gang pounds Savage in the back during the semifinal round of the WrestleMania IV World title tournament in Atlantic City.



Savage's first-round opponent, Butch Reed, is about to be tossed to the mat. Savage was forced to wrestle four opponents in one night on the way to the World title.





Savage runs Greg Valentine into the turnbuckle (above). The "Macho Man" headlocks Ted DiBiase (left), whom he wrestled in the final for the championship. Savage's victory confirmed him as one of the greatest wrestlers in the world.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RANDY SAVAGE
16,397 votes

THE "MACHO MAN" is Wrestler of the Year because he won the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV and has successfully defended it since.

But that's only part of the story.

After all, as of this writing, Ric Flair held the NWA World belt for the entire year—though Flair received 6,000 fewer votes than Savage. Last year, Hulk Hogan (the WWF World champion for all of 1987) beat out Flair (two NWA title reigns in '87 totaling 10 months) by almost the same margin. This prompts an obvious question: Is the WWF title held in higher regard than the NWA belt? Voter opinion is divided.

"It's clear that Savage wrestles more quality opponents than Flair," says Deidre Volcker of Frankfort, Kentucky. "Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant are harder to beat than Sting and Lex Luger. Also, Flair gets himself disqualified too much to be considered a great wrestler."

"I think both belts deserve equal respect," said Arthur Lucard of Dover, Delaware. "I voted for Savage because I thought he had a great year. I would definitely vote for an NWA wrestler—or one from any other federation—if I thought he had the best year."

The debate continues, but there is little doubt that Savage deserves the honor. His progression from Intercontinental titlist to World champion has been marked by an unquenchable desire to be the best. In 1988, no one stopped him.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Hulk Hogan
1986: Ric Flair
1985: Ric Flair
1984: Ric Flair
1983: Harley Race
1982: Bob Backlund
1981: Ric Flair
1980: Bob Backlund
1979: Harley Race
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Dusty Rhodes
1976: Terry Funk
1975: Mr. Wrestling II
1974: Bruno Sammartino
1973: Jack Brisco
1972: Pedro Morales

RUNNERS-UP

JERRY LAWLER
13,472 votes

First runner-up: Jerry Lawler has taken his AWA World title to all corners of the wrestling world, defending the belt against a wide variety of opponents, chief among them Kerry Von Erich. His reputation grew even more when he won Von Erich's World Class title on October 23 and held both titles. Lawler is a major reason wrestling in '88 was so exciting.

LEX LUGER
12,674 votes

Second runner-up: The "Total Package" is certainly that: an awe-inspiring combination of strength and skill wrapped in a superhuman physique. He has taken Flair to the limit on several occasions, most notably in the controversial July 10 match at the Baltimore Great American Bash. Luger is well on his way to a world title.

RIC FLAIR
10,258 votes

Third runner-up: Even Flair's most ardent supporters are troubled by his constant penchant for disqualification. This lack of clean pinfall victories has kept down his vote total. Flair is basically the same man who won the award from 1984 through 1986, but the Horsemen have played too great a role in his recent success.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,586):

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Hulk Hogan, The Honky Tonk Man, Dusty Rhodes, Sting, Kerry Von Erich, and Barry Windham.

EDITORS' AWARD

ADRIAN ADONIS & BRUISER BRODY

NO MATTER HOW you look at it, professional wrestling was a lot better off at the start of 1988 then it will be at the start of 1989. Last year, we had Bruiser Brody and Adrian Adonis; this year, we must learn to get by without them.

It won't be easy.

Within a horrible 13-day period this past summer, Brody and Adonis succumbed to tragic deaths.

Adonis died in an automobile accident on July 4 when the van in which he was traveling with three other wrestlers—Pat Kelly, David McKigney, and Mike Kelly—crashed into a rocky brook in Lewisporte, Newfoundland. Pat Kelly and McKigney were also killed.

Brody—or Frank Goodish, as he was known outside the ring—died on July 17, approximately eight hours after he was stabbed in the abdomen in the dressing room prior to a World Wrestling Council card in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Bea Franke (left), the wife of Adrian Adonis, and Barbara Goodish (right), Bruiser Brody's wife, accept *Pro Wrestling Ilustrated* Editors' Award plaques on behalf of their husbands.

PAST WINNERS

1987: Paul Boesch
1986: Verne Gagne
1985: Dan Shocket
1984: David Von Erich
1983: The Grand Wizard
1982: Lou Thesz
1981: Bruno Sammartino

Each man left behind a wife and family. They also left behind legions of fans who will forever mourn their deaths. Adonis and Brody are co-recipients of the 1988 *PWI* "Editors' Award," and our only wish is that we could have given it to them while they were alive.

Late in their careers, Adonis and Brody's appearances contrasted deeply. Adonis wore pink ribbons, dresses, dyed his hair, and paraded around the ring as a homosexual. Brody remained the same wildman he always was; with his wild black hair and full, bushy beard, Brody looked more like a caveman than a wrestler.

But Adonis and Brody had one important thing in common: both were tireless wrestlers who gave their all in the ring. When Adonis' weight ballooned to over 300 pounds, he could still outwrestle most men. Adonis was living proof of the "you can't tell a book by its cover" cliche. And those who knew Adonis understood why he became so outlandish: a gimmick helps sell tickets. Far too often, men aren't judged on ability alone.

"Adrian was a great wrestler, and he wanted people to respect him for his ability, which was pretty impressive," said Paul E. Dangerously, who briefly managed Adonis in the AWA. "But on the other hand, he had to make a living, and when he was in the WWF things were very competitive. Let's not forget, however, that earlier in his career Adonis was one of the toughest-looking men to ever step foot in the ring."

Adonis was probably most respected in Japan, where he never used the gay gimmick and often teamed with Dick Murdoch. As Japanese reporter Tokashi Miazutu said in the Winter edition of *Wrestling 88*, "If you really need to know anything else about Adonis, just figure this: would Murdoch team with anybody that wasn't hard as nails?"

It wouldn't have been hard to imagine Adonis teaming with Brody. Simply put, Bruiser Brody was the toughest, meanest, and greatest brawler in wrestling history. "He was a legend in Japan," said teammate Stan Hansen. "A tougher man has never lived. I consider it a privilege to be able to say that I wrestled with Bruiser Brody. When he died, people were in shock. Everybody had always thought Brody was indestructible. Even I thought Brody would never die."

Maybe he never will. In Japan, fans are still mourning his death while keeping his memory alive. "Many great men have wrestled in my country," said All-Japan International champ Jumbo Tsuruta, "but Brody was one of the greatest. I know of no man who give so much in ring. I bow down to him. He was a great competitor."

In the United States, wrestlers will always try to copy Brody, a man who mowed down anyone who stood in his way. But at the same time, he was a compassionate husband, father, and friend outside the ring.

"If Bruiser knew he was getting this award, his first reaction would be, 'Yeah, how much money comes with it?' " Hansen said with a laugh. "But privately, he would've proudly given it to his son to put on their mantelpiece. He was that kind of man."

We honor Bruiser Brody and Adrian Adonis with this year's "Editors' Award" because it is our last chance to honor them.

They will never be forgotten. □

YOUR UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1988

All That Talent And No Champions: Bobby Heenan
—Joseph Russo, Astoria, NY

Announcer Of The Year: Jim Ross
—John Spada, Everett, MA

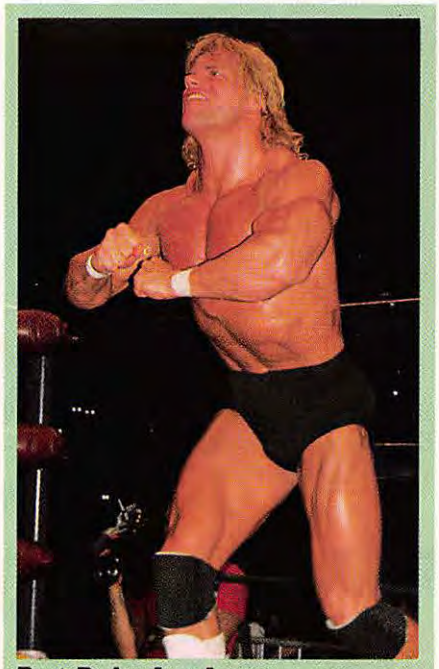
At Last, A Real AWA Champion: Jerry Lawler
—Gerry Jenkins, St. Paul, MN

Bad Taste MVP: Bobby Heenan, for claiming (on USA Network's *Prime Time Wrestling*) to have sent each member of the New York Mets pitching staff a hedge clipper—just days after Mets pitcher Bob Ojeda severed the middle finger of his left hand—his pitching hand—with a hedge clipper and had to sit out the National League playoffs
—Tim McCarthy, Chicago

Over the past several years, the "Unofficial Official Awards" have become the most popular segment of the annual year-end issue. This is where we ask readers to invent an unusual or outrageous award category and select an appropriate recipient for that award. Our volume of mail this year was greater than last year—which itself set a record for volume of mail received. It's always satisfying to see our readers so enthusiastic, and nowhere is such enthusiasm better reflected than in the following section. The most commonly suggested award was submitted by literally hundreds of fans: "Road Warrior Wanna-Bes (tie): Demolition and Powers of Pain." Plus, there were the inevitable suggestions of "Elvis Impersonator of the Year," "Snake of the Year," "Bulldog of the Year," and so on—awards where there isn't very much of a choice of recipients (after all, how many Elvis impersonators are there in wrestling?). Nevertheless, many fans did delve into the concept with playfulness and creativity, and the best awards from the thousands we received are printed here. It is with great pleasure that we present the wild and wacky, serious and silly "Unofficial Official Awards" for 1988!

Best—And Only—Reason To Watch AWA Wrestling: Madusa Miceli
—Christopher McGlothlin, Radford, VA

Best Argument For Separation Of Wrestling And State: Ray Ianucci
—Raymond Everett Howell, Baltimore, MD



Best Body: Lex Luger
—Jeanne Groll, Laurel, MT

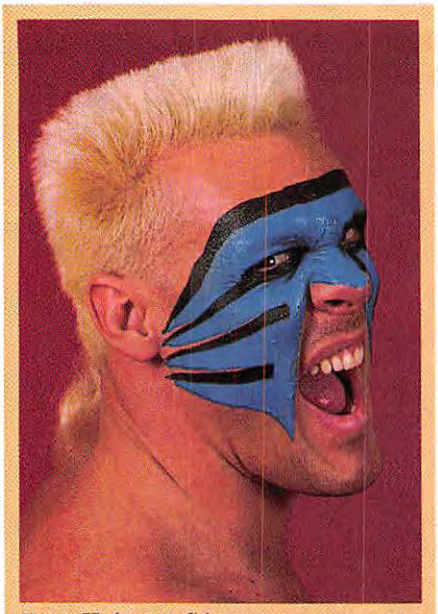
Best Body In Women's Wrestling: Madusa Miceli
—Rick Michalsen, Rockford, IL

Best Dressed: Slick
—Jose L. Fernandez, Paterson, NJ

Best Face Paint Of The Year: Road Warrior Animal's spider design
—Hin-Cheng Wang, Lexington, MA

Best Finishing Maneuver: Dynamite Kid's off-the-top-rope superplex
—Stephen Ostrowski, Lyndhurst, NJ

Best Finishing Maneuver Commentary: Gorilla Monsoon: "Stick the fork in him—he's done!"
—Mark Dagenais, Manchester, NH



Best Haircut: Sting
—Jeanne Groll, Laurel, MT

Best New Motto: The Rock 'n' Roll Express: "Rock 'n' roll is here to stay—until the money runs out!"
—Doug Lawrence, Dayton, OH

Best *PWI* Cover Of The Year: The Four Horsemen (December 1988 issue)
—Jon Gillum, Battle Creek, MI

Best Referee Of The Year: Jesse Ventura
—Jose L. Fernandez, Paterson, NJ

Best Ring Entrance: Ultimate Warrior
—Kevin Scondotto, Brooklyn, NY

Best Sneak-Attack Artist: The Honky Tonk Man
—Pam Queer, Mt. Pleasant, PA

Best Thing To Happen To The WWF: Hulk Hogan loses the WWF World title
—Jose L. Fernandez, Paterson, NJ

Best Tights: Rick Rude
—Matthew Fata, Yonkers, NY

Biggest Contradiction In Terms: *Ravishing* Rick Rude
—Robert Apana, Fairborn, OH

Biggest Defection Of The Year: Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson join the WWF
—Roger Coghill, Omaha, NE

Biggest Lie Of The Year: Hulk Hogan saying that he's the greatest WWF champion ever
—Jake Coffman, Brownsville, IN

Biggest Ripoff: NWA stealing the Tower of Doom idea from World Class
—Scott Johnson, Ogden, UT

Blessed Event: The end of The Rock 'n' Roll Express
—Shawn Pawliczak, Eustis, FL

Brain Without The Brawn: Bobby Heenan
—Brian McMahon, St. Charles, IL

Cheaters Always Win: The Four Horsemen
—Stephen Ostrowski, Lyndhurst, NJ

Chip Off The Old Block: Dustin Rhodes
—Bob Hutchinson, Tampa, FL

Comeback Of The Year: The AWA becomes one of the Big Three again
—Shane Bowen, Eastman, GA

Coolest Shades: Eddie Gilbert
—Dino Becovic, Roseville, MI

Cowards Of The Year: The Powers Of Pain, for not getting on the scaffold against The Road Warriors
—Jean-Pierre Padilla, Long Island City, NY

Cure For Insomnia: WrestleMania IV
—Ben Cole, LaGrande, OR

Curt Hennig Memorial "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is" Award: Ted DiBiase
—Rob & Jeff Gorman, Akron, OH

Cy Young Award (Wrestling Division): Dusty Rhodes' baseball bat attack of Tully Blanchard
—Woody Barton, Gloversville, SC

Daddy Warbucks: Ted DiBiase
—Mark Murdock, Lewisburg, TN

Danny Davis Trophy For Biased Refereeing: Tommy Young
—Vivian Vinson, Clyde, TX

David Letterman Stupid Pet Trick Of The Year: The Islanders kidnapping (dognapping?) Matilda the wonder mutt
—Woody Barton, Gloversville, SC

"Did I Hear That Right" Award: Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson defect to the WWF
—Shawn H. Scott, Little Ferry, NJ

Disappointment Of The Year: The return of Hulk Hogan
—Darren Phillips, Washington, DC

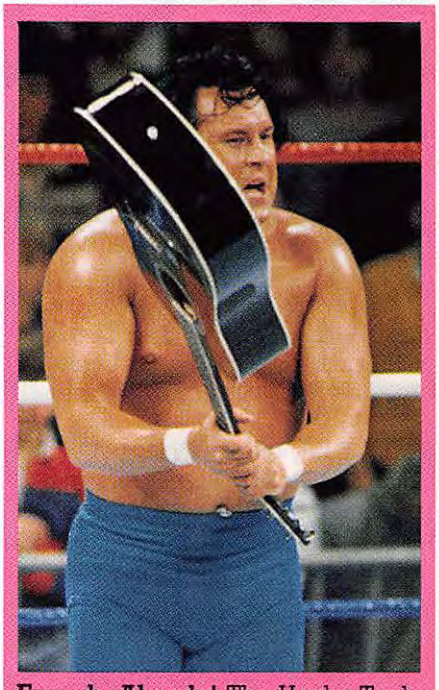
Disgrace To The Race: One Man Gang
—Jimmy Carter, Dillon, SC

Doublemint Twins: Dave and Earl Hebner
—Angel Juarbe, New York, NY

Dukakis-Bush Award For Feud Going Nowhere: Dusty Rhodes vs. Kevin Sullivan
—Shelley Osterberg, Garden Prairie, IL

Dumbest Thing Ever Said By A *PWI* Editor: David Rosenbaum's claim that The Honky Tonk Man is the greatest WWF Intercontinental champion of all time
—Mike Shaw, Brogue, PA

Edwin Newman Conversationalist Of The Year Award: (tie) Robert Gibson, Steve Williams, & The Botswana Beast
—Dan Gibson, Waycross, GA

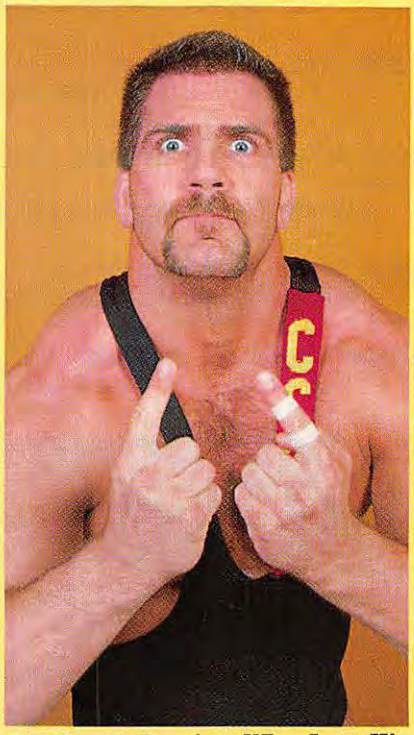


Enough, Already! The Honky Tonk Man
—Marilyn Kiger, Los Angeles, CA

Et Tu, Bruno: The WWF labeling Superstar Graham a "living legend"
—Angela Witherspoon, Pringle, PA

False Prophet: Brother Love
—Mills LaCroidoux, Hamilton, ONTARIO

Fatal Attraction: Kevin Sullivan and Precious
—Cathy DiGennaro, Silver Spring, MD



Finally, A Russian Who Lets His Hair Grow: Nikita Koloff
—Gregory Wood, St. Laurent, Quebec

Freddy's Kruger's Nightmare: The Sheepherders
—Sheila Belitz, McLoud, OK

From Bad To Worse: One Man Gang changes his name to Akeem
—Peter Schroeck, Keyport, NJ

Gods Walk Among Us: Lex Luger & Sting
—Shawn H. Scott, Little Ferry, NJ

Gutsiest (And Hottest) Lady: Cheryl Roberts
—Tom Pine, Bradenton, FL

He Howls Better Than The Wolfman: Hacksaw Duggan
—Jodi Ludwig, Troy, NY

He's Back, But So What? Hulk Hogan
—Andre Featherstone, New York

Honorary Soul Brother: Akeem (One Man Gang)
—Brian McMahon, St. Charles, IL

Human Earthworm: Kendall Windham
—Derek Bates, Muscatine, IA

Human Hemorrhoid: Gorilla Monsoon
—Matt Jaymz, Welch, WV

Hypocrite Of The Year: Barry Windham
—Lori Hambleton, Conestoga, PA

I Don't Care How Stupid I Look On National TV, Just Give Me My Paycheck: Terry "The Red Rooster" Taylor
—Ken Feola, Miramar, FL

I *Loathe* You! Brother Love
—Bryan Foley, Silver Spring, MD

I Paid $14.95 For *Commercials?!* SummerSlam 88
—Chris Bors, Ithaca, NY

I Sure Do Feel Sorry For Him: Eddie Gilbert, for marrying Missy Hyatt
—Angie Goff, Rusk, TX

If Only Father Time Could Return Him To Us: The Roddy Piper of Georgia Championship Wrestling
—Kevin Donlan, Pasadena, MD

If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them: Barry Windham
—Shawn Miller, Shannon, IL

I'm Over 20 And I *Still* Don't Know My Name: Mike Rotundo, er, uh, Rotunda
—Ryan Holden, Columbia, SC

I'm Seeing It, But I Can't Believe It: Ivan Koloff being cheered!
—Mike Volgare, Bronx, NY

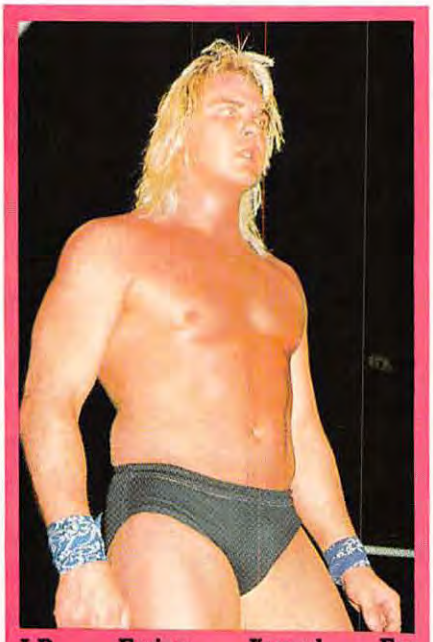
In Your Face, Road Warriors: Demolition
—Dave Parker & Greg Paluso, Clifton Park, NY

Incredible Shrinking Wrestling Association: NWA
—Roger D. Josey, Statesville, NC

Inspirational Tag Team Of The Year: The British Bulldogs
—Stephen Benjamin, Henrietta, NY

Insult To The Universe's Intelligence: Get well cards to Matilda
—Michael Weeks, Staten Island, NY

Irresistible Wrestler Of The Year: Buddy Landell
—James Root, Norwalk, OH



J.R. Ewing Award For Backstabbing: Barry Windham
—Cathy DiGennaro, Silver Spring, MD

Jim & Tammy Bakker Award For Sincerity: Brother Love
—Dave Wilson, Cliffside Park, NJ

Jivin' His Way To The Rest Home: Rufus R. Jones
—Sarah Samms, Marietta, GA

John Moschita (Federal Express Motormouth) Award: Jim Cornette
—Mark Dagenais, Manchester, NH

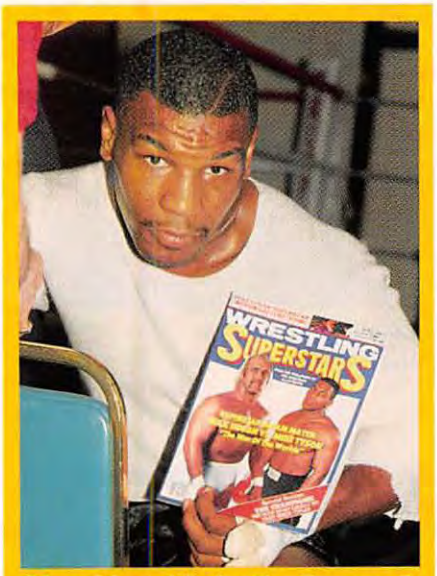
Johnny Carson & Ed McMahon Trophy For Comedy Team Of The Year: Gorilla Monsoon and Bobby Heenan
—Lori Lemaster, Bellevue, OH

Jungle Boy: Buddy Roberts
—Loren Redding, New York

Looks Like A Blond Raccoon: Dusty Rhodes
—Henry W. Ocampo, Milwaukee

Loser Of The Year: Ken Patera
—Vera Hutchinson, San Mateo, CA

Loudest Announcer: Jim Ross
—James McHone, Charlotte, NC



Man Most Likely To Appear At WrestleMania V: Mike Tyson
—Randy Meck, Fairfax, VA

Man Most Likely To Make A Crowd Vomit: Brother Love
—Sean Cronin, Hyde Park, MA

Medical Gibberish Award: Gorilla Monsoon
—Shawn Heimberger, Hagerstown, MD

Megaegos: Hulk Hogan & Randy Savage
—Rob & Jeff Gorman, Akron, OH

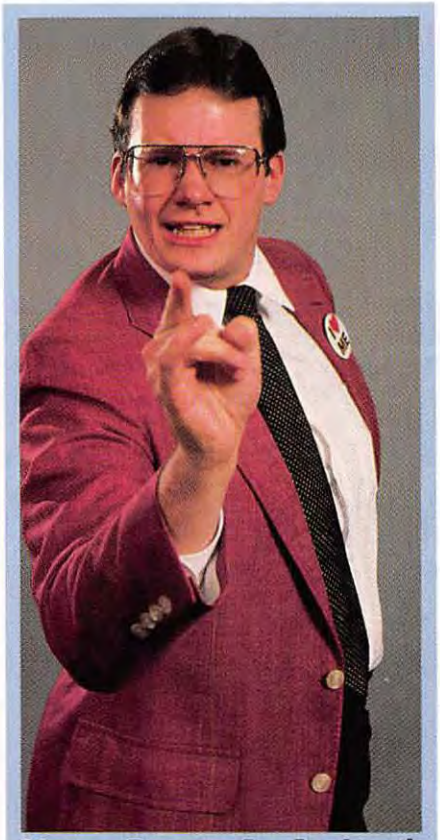
Megajunk: SummerSlam 88
—Eric McHugh, Toms River, NJ

MIA: Owen Hart
—Joe Pulilli, Calgary, Albert

Million-Dollar Hunk: Ted DiBiase
—Barb Pinder, Philadelphia, PA

More Devastating Than The Double-Dropkick: The Rock 'n' Roll Express' breakup
—Gary Hicks, Newland, NC

More Of A Weasel Than Bobby Heenan: Jimmy Hart
—Steve Walles, Stoneham, MA



Morton Downey Jr. Loudmouth Award: Jim Cornette
—Sandy Robinson, Philadelphia, PA

Most Boring Feud Of The Year: Brutus Beefcake vs. The Honky Tonk Man
—Lori Lemaster, Bellevue, OH

Most Enjoyable Moment Of The Year: The Road Warriors beating the crap out of Sting October 7 on national television
—David Lowicki, Kenmore, NY

Most Hated Announcer: David Crockett
—John Mastandrea, Plantation, FL

Most Improved Federation: AWA
—Rich Busha, Pittsburgh

Most Improved Federation: WWF
—Nhorman Sarmiento, New York

Most Improved Tag Team: Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond
—Noah Tarnow, South Orange, NJ

Most Insane Person On The *PWI* Staff: Dave Rosenbaum, for his constant support of The Honky Tonk Man
—Jeff Patrus, Detroit

Most Likely To Be Struck By Lightning: Brother Love
—David Snyder, Beaumont, TX

Most Out-Of-Shape Champion Of The Year: Phil Hickerson
—Roger Coghill, Omaha, NE

Most Overrated Tag Team: Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard
—Mike Volgare, Bronx, NY

Most Overrated Wrestler: Sting
—Stephen Ostrowski, Lyndhurst, NJ

Most Revealing Ring Attire: Dirty White Girl
—Clyde Bias, Huntington, NY

Most Underrated Tag Team: The Conquistadors
—Mark Robinson, Colorado Springs, CO

Most Underrated Wrestler: Rick Steiner
—Mike Volgare, Bronx, NY

Most Unlikely Patriot: Ivan Koloff
—Robin Hodges, Charlotte, NC

Mother Goose Commentating Award: Mark Lowrance: "Al Perez won the match by the hair of his chinny-chin-chin!"
—Kathleen Newsom, Gretna, LA

Mr. T Wanna-Be: Bad News Brown
—Jose L. Fernandez, Paterson, NJ

New Generation Hair Care/Helsinki Formula Award: Jerry Stubbs, for his exquisitely fitting toupee
—Willie Fuller, Opelika, AL

No Need To Beware: Koko B. Ware
—Chris Bors, Ithaca, NY

Older Than Methusela: Mr. Wrestling II
—Pat Prescott, Altanta, GA

Overdue For A Title: Sting
—Sam Ballenberg, Baltimore, MD

Paul Lynde Memorial Award For Comic Excellence: Jim Cornette
—Mike Robinson, Greensboro, NC

Pay-Per-View Event Of The Year: July 10 Great American Bash from Baltimore: "The Price For Freedom"
—Steven Blau, Red Bank, NJ

Philosopher Of The Year: Rick Steiner
—Joe Cianci, Ozone Park, NY

Pillsbury Doughboy: Dusty Rhodes
—Dan Berg, Waldo, WI

Player's Club Gold Card: "Diamond" Dallas Page
—Jim Mojeski, Carver, MN

Poor Little Rich Boy: Ted DiBiase
—Beverly Edwards, Stanley, NC

Potential Is Wasting In Tag Team Matches: Jeff Jarrett
—Jeff Sickman, Evansville, IN

Praise The Lord And Pass The Pepto-Bismol: Brother Love, and his sickeningly syrupy, sappy sermons
—Ronald Brush, Brooklyn, NY

Preliminary Tag Team Of The Year: The Conquistadors
—Richard Delgado, Bronx, NY

Pretty Boy Who Needs His Head Busted Open: Sting
—Philip Polaski, Palm Harbor, FL

Quote Of The Year: Jim Ross (April 1988): "The Midnight Rider reminds me of someone, but I just can't place him!"
—Bobby Bollinger, Nashua, NH

Reach Out And Touch Someone: Paul E. Dangerously
—Ryan McLaughlin, Grande Prairie, Alberta

Red Badge Of Courage: Precious, for putting herself in danger to help the man she loves
—Lori Lemaster, Bellevue, OH

Reunion Of The Year: Ivan & Nikita Koloff
—Darren Phillips, Washington, DC

Scientific Wrestler Of The Year: Blue Blazer
—Dave Parker & Greg Paluso, Clifton Park, NY

Sellouts Of The Year: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson
—Shawn Heimberger, Hagerstown, MD

Sexiest Woman: Madusa Miceli
—Andre Featherstone, New York

Shadoe Stevens Of Professional Wrestling: Stan Lane
—Marty Kibler, Greensboro, MD

Sheik Memorial Flame Thrower Award: Eddie Gilbert
—Eddie Suarez, Dothan, AL

Shock Of The Year: The death of Bruiser Brody
—Rich Keaemer, Teaneck, NJ

Shot Seen 'Round The World: Ron Garvin's kayo of Dusty Rhodes
—Kendell Wiggins, Newark, NJ

Skank Of The Year: Downtown Bruno
—Mary Mavis, Nashville, TN

Slow Motion Incorporated: Andre the Giant
—Bob Goldberg, Canton, MA

Smartest Move Of The Year: Lex Luger leaving The Four Horsemen
—Nhorman Sarmiento, New York

Stripper Of The Year Award: Elizabeth
—Phillip Bruno, New York, NY

The Amazing Expanding Man: "Playboy" Buddy Rose
—Devin Hanin, Portland, OR

The Incredible Shrinking Stable: Paul Jones' army
—Kimberly Ann Brown, Saugus, MA

The *Real* Million-Dollar Man: Vince McMahon
—Marc Myers, York, PA

The Softness Of His Brain Is Only Exceeded By The Hardness Of His Head: Paul Ellering
—Kathleen Newsom, Gretna, LA

Title Or No Title—Still #1!: Hulk Hogan
—Joseph A. Quintes, Robins AFB, GA

Too Long In The Desert Sun: Gen. Skandor Akbar
—Chris Bors, Ithaca, NY

Toontown: The WWF
—Rob & Jeff Gorman, Akron, OH

Unanswered Question Of The Year: What *was* on Baby Doll's photos?
—Mary Van Kleek, Saratoga Springs, NY

Underrated Team Of The Year: The Guerrero Brothers
—Jerry Soles, Las Vegas, NV

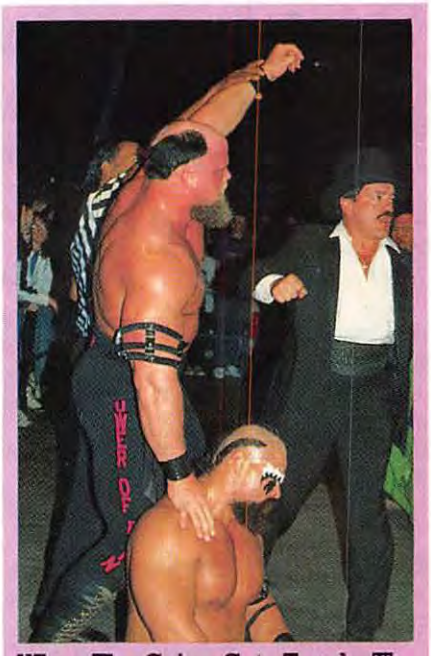
Unfair Advantage: Greg Valentine's shin guard
—Bob Simmons, Poughkeepsie, NY

U.S.A. Is Not Okay, But The Money Sure Is: Dino Bravo and Frenchy Martin
—Stephen Ostrowski, Lyndhurst, NJ

Vanna White Wanna-Be: Elizabeth, for wearing four different dresses at WrestleMania IV
—Manuel Rodriguez, Jackson Heights, NY

Wake Me When It's Over: *PWI's* Media Review column
—Robert Hoplinson, Hatfield, PA

What Ever Became Of: Mulkeymania
—Ross W. Blair, Simi Valley, LA



When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Lost: Warlord & Barbarian
—Michael Weeks, Staten Island, NY

Who Is He, Really? Pistol Pez Whatley . . . no, he's Shaska Whatley . . . no, no, he's Willie B. Hert!
—Raymond Ney, Arlington, VA

Win The Belts Or Shut Up! The Road Warriors
—Shawn Heimberger, Hagerstown, MD

Wipe Your Nose, Already! Hacksaw Duggan
—Karen West, Burlington, VT

Without A Doubt The Most Improved Federation (And The Most Watchable): AWA
—Robert Cross, Buchanan, MI

Worse Than The Iran-Contra Scandal: The result of the July 10 Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger bout in Baltimore
—Brandon Easton, Baltimore, MD

Worst Announcing Job Ever: John Ayres at Clash of the Champions III
—Rich Keaemer, Teaneck, NJ

Worst Bargain Of The Year: Ted DiBiase buying Hercules as a slave
—Wally Bator, Hoffman Estates, IL

Worst Case Of Amnesia: Ron Tronguard, who moved from the AWA to the WWF, saying, "I don't know anything about The Rockers!"
—Billy Ellis, Norman Park, GA

Worst Comeback: Nikita Koloff
—Stephen Ott, Winston-Salem, NC

Worst Commentator: Shaun Mooney
—Kevin Fay, College Point, NY

Worst Excuses For Glamorous Women Award: Lelani Kai & Judy Martin
—Steve Walles, Stoneham, MA

Worst Feud Of The Year: Dino Bravo vs. Ken Patera
—Mike Shaw, Brogue, PA

Worst Makeup Job: Brother Love
—Bob Goldberg, Canton, MA

Worst Manager: Slick
—Francisco Amarello, Taft, OK

Worst SuperCard: SummerSlam 88
—Manuel Rodriguez, Jackson Heights, NY

Worst Tag Team Of The Year: Demolition
—Nhorman Sarmiento, New York

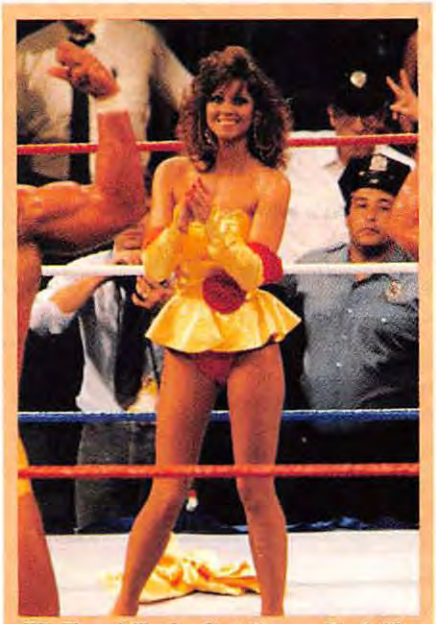
Worst Wrestler: Ultimate Warrior
—Clinton S. Freeman, New York

Wrestling Dolls Were Bad Enough, But This Is Absurd: George Steele's "Mine"
—Matt Jaymz, Welch, WV

Wrestling's Ultimate Champion: Randy Savage
—David Leimmari, Thunder Bay, Ontario

WWF's *Other* Woman Of The Year: Cheryl Roberts
—Steve Walles, Stoneham, MA

You Call *That* A World Champion? Ric Flair
—Kimberly Ann Brown, Saugus, MA



ZZ Top "She's Got Legs, And She Knows How To Use Them" Trophy: Elizabeth
—Glen Flora, Bayonne, NJ □

PREDICTIONS: 1989

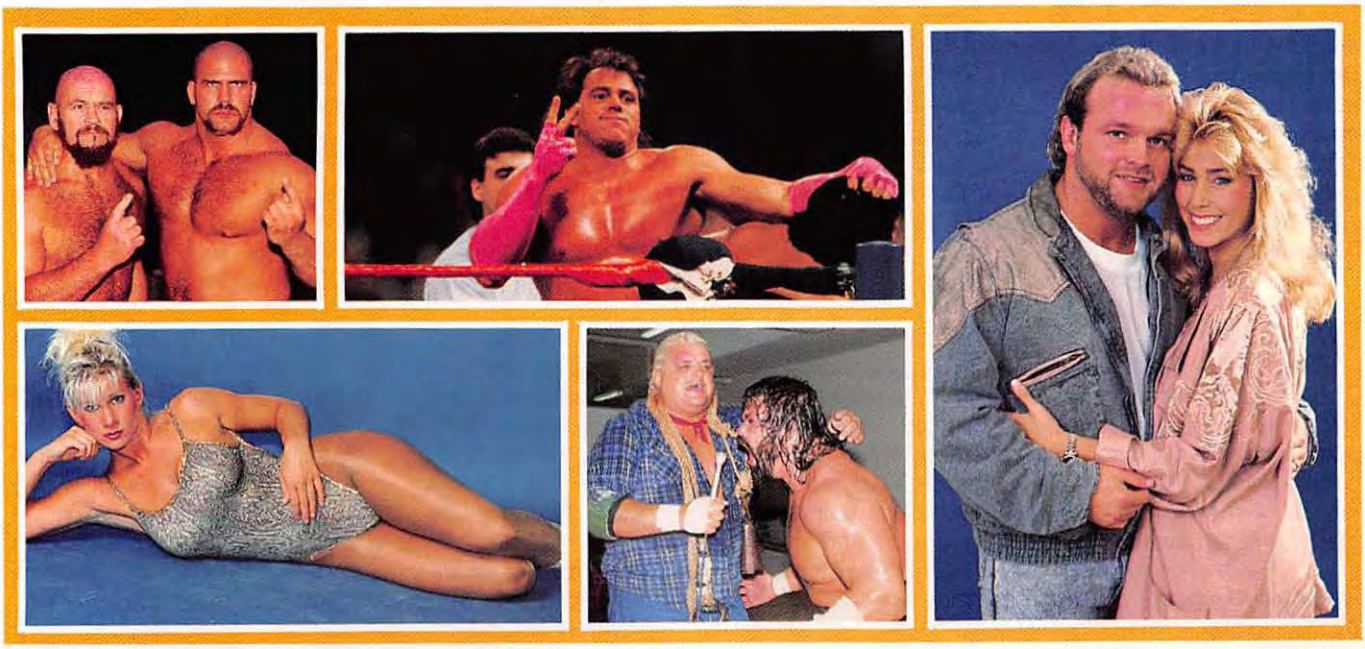
Back in the January 1989 edition of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated****, my "In Focus" column asked you to send in your thoughts about what might possibly happen in the world of wrestling over the next 12 months. This has been a tradition in the year-end issue for—well, for fully 1/25th of a century, counting this year. And we* ***still*** *haven't found too many people who've been able to peer into the future with very much accuracy. But we'll continue to try. Looking through the assembled prognostications of the prophets and soothsayers below, I think this year's harvest of hunches might be the best yet. One year from now, when we're trying to discern the events of 1990, we'll know for sure what kind of accuracy record needs to be beaten!*

—Craig Peters

The Road Warriors will win the NWA World tag team title and the **Jim Crockett Sr.** Memorial Cup tag team tournament within one year's time, proving that they are truly the greatest of all time . . . **Al Perez** will split up with **Gary Hart** and go on to become one of the most popular and successful men in the NWA . . . **Steve "Dr. Death" Williams** will win the Bunkhouse Stampede championship in 1989, ending the three-year reign of **Dusty Rhodes** . . . Now that **Nikita Koloff** is reunited with his uncle and mentor **Ivan Koloff**, Nikita will go on to achieve the superstar status that was predicted for him when he first broke into wrestling . . . **Rick Steamboat** will come out of retirement to wrestle in the NWA.

—Mike Volgare, Bronx, NY

Since AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** likes to defend his title in other federations, WrestleMania V will feature a main event title vs. title match between Lawler and WWF World champion **Randy Savage** . . . **The Megapowers** will break up, and SummerSlam 89 will be **Hulk Hogan** and **Elizabeth** vs. **Randy Savage** and Hulk's wife **Linda** (sounds silly, but so was SummerSlam 88!) . . . **Terry Taylor** will leave the WWF (and who cares where *he* goes?) . . . **Roddy Piper** will return to wrestling—and most likely return to the WWF to kick the stuffings out of **Brother Love** . . . **Madusa Miceli** will win the WWF Women's title . . . **Eddie Gilbert** and **Missy Hyatt** will be banned from wrestling for life . . . **Brutus Beefcake** will leave the WWF for the AWA . . . **Ultimate Warrior** will



lose the WWF Intercontinental title to **Bad News Brown**, who will lose it to **Hulk Hogan** ... **Dusty Rhodes** will retire ... *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will institute a "Woman of the Year" category for the Achievement Awards and **Elizabeth** will be the first recipient ... **Eddie Ellner** will finally admit that he is a wormslime and will kick himself out of *PWI.*

—Manny Rodriguez, Jackson Heights, NY

Carlos Colon, Ivan Koloff, Ron Simmons, and **Abdullah the Butcher** will go to the WWF ... On April 16 and 17, the Crockett Cup tag team tournament will be held in Atlanta's Omni with **Dusty Rhodes** and **Magnum T.A.** winning ... **Chris Adams** will go to the WWF and continue his feud with **Terry Taylor**, who will beat **Brutus Beefcake** for the Intercontinental title ... **Randy Savage** will defend the WWF belt against **Ted DiBiase** at WrestleMania V; he will have a good year of defenses against Dibiase, **Virgil, Andre the Giant,** and **Hulk Hogan** ... **Bob Backlund** will finally return to the WWF ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** will fire **Oliver Humperdink** and rehire **Larry Sharpe** ... **Mike Tyson** will have *something* to do with WrestleMania V ... **The Midnight Express** (old) will fight **The Midnight Express** (new) with **Paul E. Dangerously** and **Jim Cornette** placed in cages above the ring ... **Ted DiBiase** will feud with **Virgil** ... **Lord Humongous** will feud with **Jason the Terrible** in a loser-lose-mask match ... **Mil Mascaras** will become a manager ... **Greg Valentine** will return to the NWA ... **Ed Gantner** will join **Kevin Sullivan's** Varsity Club.

—David Soloman, Centerville, OH

Kevin Sullivan and **The Varsity Club** will venture to the WWF ... **Curt Hennig** will beat **Randy Savage** for the WWF World belt at WrestleMania V ... **Ted DiBiase** will have his own weekly segment on *Wrestling Challenge* called "The Money Pit" ... **Barry Windham** will turn against **Ric Flair** and wrestle him in a number of NWA World title bouts ... **Roddy Piper** will make a special appearance at WrestleMania V and do some commentary with **Jesse Ventura** ... **The Hart Foundation** will be win a second WWF World tag team title ... **Vince McMahon** will have another pay-per-view wrestling spectacular, similar to The Great American Bash, which will be called The Monsters Of Wrestling Tour ... **Lex Luger** will come to the WWF and wrestle under the name "Luscious" Lex Luger ... **Bobby Heenan** will finally have a championship belt in his stable ... **Sting** will reunite with **The Ultimate Warrior**, and the team will be known as **The Faces Of Death** ... **The Rockers** will turn rulebreaker, to be managed by WWF newcomer **Paul E. Dangerously.**

—Phillip Bruno & Duncan Brady, New York, NY

We will become "board" with **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** ... The WWF will institute a new title belt: Best WWF Cartoon Character Wrestler; finalists in the tournament to determine the first champion will include **Brutus Beefcake, Jake "The Snake" Roberts, Rick Rude, Koko B. Ware,** and **The Ultimate Warrior** ... **Ric Flair** will spend less money on jet planes and stretch limousines and finally save up enough to go to a dentist and get his missing teeth replaced ... **"Mean" Gene Okerlund** and **Superstar Graham** will be at ringside together during WrestleMania V; one of the match losers will protest, claiming that the glare from the overhead lights, reflected from their combined chrome domes, caused a momentary disorientation ... **Vince McMahon** will wrestle **Jim Crockett** in a pay-per-view match that will be the biggest attraction since the days of **Ed "Strangler" Lewis** ... A wrestling trophy will be presented in the ring and actually make it back to the dressing room intact, without having been smashed over the head of the winner by a disgruntled interloper.

—Jim Gibson, Commack, NY

Randy Savage will beat **Hulk Hogan** at WrestleMania V ... **Ric Flair** will lose his NWA World belt to either **Lex Luger** or **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Demolition** will lose their WWF World tag team belts to **The Powers Of Pain,** who will lose them to **The Brainbusters—Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** ... **Stan Hansen** will come to the WWF and feud with **Ron Bass** ... **The Road Warriors** will become the next members of **The Four Horsemen** ... **Dusty Rhodes** will join a health club and become its TV ad spokesman.

—Joseph Gianninoto, Mount Vernon, NY

Randy Savage will prevail as the undisputed WWF heavyweight champion ... **The Ultimate Warrior** will retain his WWF Intercontinental title for the entire year ... Wrestlers turning bad will be **Jim Duggan** and **Koko B. Ware;** turning good will be **Danny Davis** ... Wrestlers run out of the WWF will be **Andre the Giant, The Honky Tonk Man, Ted DiBiase,** and **Rick Rude;** returning to the WWF will be **Rick Steamboat, Tom Zenk, Bob Orton, Billy Jack Haynes, Roddy Piper, King Kong Bundy, and Butch Reed** ... Injuries will occur as follows: **Andre the Giant** will break **Jim Duggan's** ribs; **Brutus Beefcake** will put **The Honky Tonk Man** out with a sleeperhold, then will cut off his hair and shave off his sideburns and eyebrows; **Ted DiBiase** will break **Randy Savage's** neck; **Jake Roberts** will break **Bobby Heenan's** neck with the DDT.

—Rich Stagnato, Woodbridge, PA

New arrivals to the NWA will include **Ed Gantner, Billy Jack Haynes, Scott Hall, Rick Steamboat, Butch Reed, Dustin Rhodes,** and a new team called **New Generation** ... **The Midnight Express** will win the **Jim Crockett Sr.** Memorial Cup tag team tournament ... **Billy Jack Haynes** and **Scott Hall** will join **The Four Horsemen** ... **Ric Flair** will face tough challenges from **Al Perez** ... The NWA will hold the first-ever tag team scaffold match battle royal; there will be two scaffolds spread across two rings, and a team will be eliminated when both members are knocked off the scaffold.

—Chris Sammarco, Bayonne, NJ

Hulk Hogan will regain the WWF World title from **Randy Savage** in the main event of WrestleMania V ... **Bobby Heenan** will be captured by the Bronx Zoo and put on display as the biggest weasel in captivity ... After losing the NWA World title to **Lex Luger** in a steel cage match, **Ric Flair** will go to the WWF ... **The Honky Tonk Man** will be kicked out of Graceland when he visits there and claims to be "the greatest **Elvis Presley** impersonator of all time!" ... **The Ultimate Warrior** will be forced to give up the Intercontinental belt after being severely injured by **Big Bossman** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow**

will take the U.S. title from **Barry Windham** . . . **Ted DiBiase** will retire in disgust after he tries—and fails—to buy the entire WWF . . . **Brutus Beefcake** will quit wrestling and open up a chain of barber shops all across the country . . . **Ric Flair** will challenge **Hulk Hogan** for the WWF title in New York's Shea Stadium as the main event of SummerSlam 89 . . . **Andre the Giant** will turn good again . . . **Dusty Rhodes** will retire . . . New to the WWF will be **Stan Hansen**, **Nikita Koloff**, and **Steve Williams** . . . **Rick Rude** will be arrested for indecent exposure after he wears his **Cheryl Roberts** tights one time too many . . . The WWF will create a television title and an Intercontinental tag team title.

—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Andre the Giant will win the WWF title from **Randy Savage**, but lose it to **Hulk Hogan** at WrestleMania V; Andre will turn good again and team with Hogan to beat **Ted DiBiase** and **Akeem** in his retirement match . . . **Rick Steiner** will leave **The Varsity Club** and win the NWA TV title from **Mike Rotundo** . . . **Magnum T.A.** will come back to the NWA at the **Jim Crockett Sr.** Memorial Cup tag team tournament and beat **Ric Flair** for the NWA title . . . **Virgil** will dump **Ted DiBiase** . . . **The Midnight Rockers** will turn bad and win the new WWF Intercontinental tag team title, but will lose it to **The British Bulldogs** . . . After failing to get two new members, **The Four Horsemen** will disband . . . **Elizabeth** will defeat **Sherri Martel** for the WWF Women's title . . . **Owen Hart** will come to the WWF and feud with **The Hart Foundation** after taking on **Jimmy Hart** as his manager.

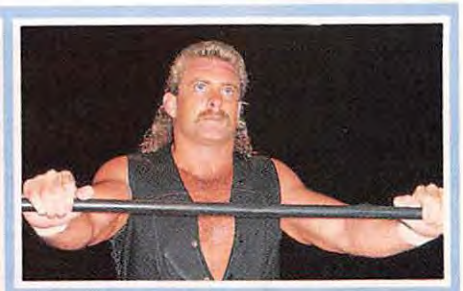
—Glenn Harrison, River Vale, NJ

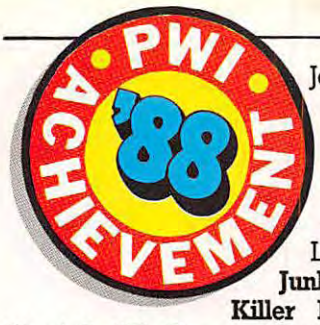
The Powers Of Pain will beat **Demolition** to become the new WWF tag team champions . . . **Hercules** will drop **Bobby Heenan** as his manager and have a major feud with **Ted DiBiase** and members of Heenan's stable . . . **Lex Luger** will defeat **Ric Flair** for the NWA World title, but Flair will get it back in three months . . . **The Sheepherders** will become the new U.S. tag team champions when they beat **Sting** and **Nikita Koloff** in the finals of a tournament . . . **Ron Simmons** will become the next member of **The Varsity Club** . . . **Bad News Brown** will defeat **Randy Savage** for the WWF World title at WrestleMania V in Tampa, Florida . . . **J.J. Dillon** will sign **The Road Warriors** as the next two **Four Horsemen** . . . *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will fire **Eddie Ellner**.

—Brian McMahon, St. Charles, IL

Hulk Hogan and **Ric Flair** will finally engage in their long-awaited feud. Much to the dismay of **Vince McMahon** and **Jim Crockett**, however, the prize will be the AWA World title! . . . **Kevin Sullivan** will be banned forever from wrestling . . . Newcomers to the WWF will be **Greg Gagne**, **Kendall Windham**, **Lex Luger**, and **Ronnie Garvin** . . . **Sting** will capture the NWA World title . . . The main event at WrestleMania V will be a **Randy Savage-Hulk Hogan** chain match . . . **The British Bulldogs** will regain the WWF World tag team belts . . . A wrestling card will draw over 100,000 fans to The Rose Bowl; the main event will be a battle royal involving the champions of the NWA, WWF, AWA, World Class, CWA, Continental, WWC, and Stampede areas to determine the undisputed World champion . . . World Class will expand nationwide and the WCCW title will be recognized as a world title . . . **Andre the Giant** will retire from wrestling to become a manager . . . **Jim Ross** and **Bill Watts** will resurrect the UWF.

—Adam Gallegos, Littleton, CO





Joining the WWF will be **Kevin Kelly**, **The Road Warriors** (with a new look), **Teijho Khan**, **Jason the Terrible** (as a rulebreaker), and **Jimmy Valiant** ... Leaving the WWF will be **Junkyard Dog**, **Ron Bass**, **The Killer Bees**, and **Jos LeDuc** ... **Kendall Windham** will defeat **Eric Embry** for the WCCW light heavyweight title ... WrestleMania V will be so bad that, halfway through the card, the crowd will disperse ... **Max Pain** will enter the AWA and challenge **Ronnie Garvin** for the AWA TV belt ... **Curt Hennig** will win the WWF World title from **Randy Savage** at SummerSlam 89 ... Stampede Wrestling will expand ... The NWA world title will go to **Lex Luger**, but **Ric Flair** will win it back; around October, Flair will lose the title to **Bam Bam Bigelow** and retire shortly thereafter ... **The Honky Tonk Man** will put out a record with songs written by himself, **Jimmy Hart**, and **Dave Rosenbaum** ... **Greg Gagne** will break the 220-pound barrier.

—Eric McHugh, Toms River, NJ

Newcomers to the NWA will be **The British Bulldogs**, **Jerry Lawler**, **Tito Santana**, and **Curt Hennig** ... **Mike Rotundo** will lose the NWA World TV title to **Steve Williams** ... Newcomers to the WWF will be **Wahoo McDaniel**, **Rick Morton**, **Brad Armstrong**, and **Eddie Gilbert** ... **Ron Bass** will be injured and have his head shaved by **Brutus Beefcake** ... **Nikita** and **Ivan Koloff** will send **The Russian Assassins** back to Russia ... **Jim Crockett** and **Vince McMahon** will finally join forces to create one giant SuperCard that will see such matches as **Andre the Giant** vs. **Dusty Rhodes**, **Ric Flair** vs. **Randy Savage**, **Lex Luger** vs. **Hulk Hogan**, **Demolition** vs. **The Road Warriors**, and **The Hart Foundation** vs. **The Midnight Express**.

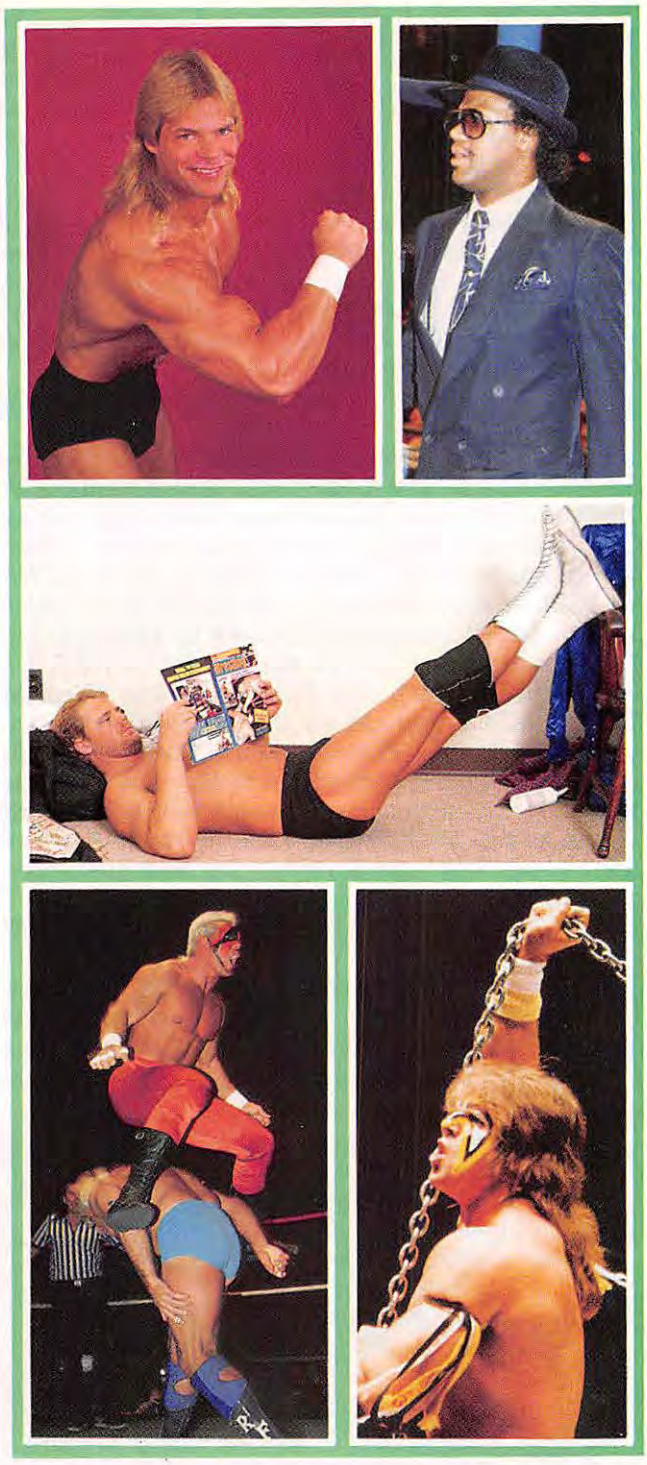
—Pete Amoruso, Garfield, NJ

Gary Hart will pay **Ronnie Garvin** $50,000 to return to the NWA ... **Sunshine** will return to wrestling ... **Greg Valentine** and **Sherri Martel** will start dating ... SuperClash 89 will be held outdoors and will capture the outdoor attendance record ... **Ric Flair** will tour the AWA, World Class, Continental, and CWA areas to defend his NWA World title ... **Magnum T.A.** will return to wrestling ... **Ted DiBiase** will successfully buy all the WWF titles and will share the tag team title with **Andre the Giant**.

—Maceo Parker, St. Petersburg, FL

Randy Savage will turn against **Hulk Hogan** and defend the WWF World belt against him at WrestleMania V in a cage match. Both wrestlers will exit the cage simultaneously. They will stare at each other in confusion until they are attacked by **Ted DiBiase**, **The Honky Tonk Man**, and the **Bobby Heenan** family. A huge cage war will ensue, and Savage and Hogan will clean house and become friends again. Savage will keep the belt ... **Ric Flair** will come close to losing his NWA World title to **Bam Bam Bigelow** at a Clash of the Champions, but he will lose the belt during the Great American Bash to **Sting** ... **The Ultimate Warrior** will hold his Intercontinental title until August, when he'll lose it to **Rick Rude** ... **Owen Hart**, **Bruce Hart**, and **Brian Pillman** will join **The Hart Foundation**, making it the most powerful group in the WWF ... **The Killer Bees** will go to the AWA and beat **Pat Tanaka** and **Paul Diamond** for the AWA World tag team belts ... **Karachi Vice** will invade the WWF, causing Stampede to merge into the WWF ... **Slick** will sign **Kamala** and **King Kong Bundy** to join **Bubba Rogers** and **One Man Gang** in his stable; they will form an elite group called **The Four Elephants** ... **Jerry Lawler** will lose the AWA World title in Japan to **Tatsumi Fujinami**, who will thrill AWA fans with an American tour.

—Jeff Gorman, Akron, OH



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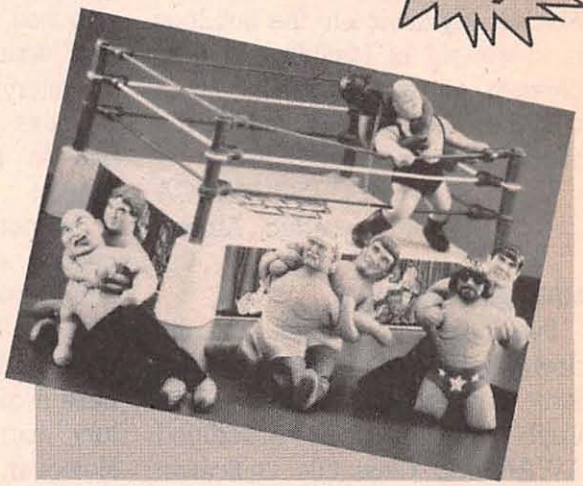

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(Continued from page 7)

though they lost, the excitement created by Bulldogs almost made up for it.

I have only seen the Bulldogs look this good when they won the belts at WrestleMania II . . . *before* Matilda. My advice to the Bulldogs is to get rid of Matilda and concentrate on wrestling. Only then will they be able to regain the World tag team title.

GREG MANCA
Leduc, Alberta

MEMPHIS MADMAN

I've had a few days to calm down, but I'm still in shock at what Jerry Lawler did to Kerry Von Erich prior to their scheduled AWA-World Class title unification match in the Dallas Sportatorium.

I mean, here's a man who is to Tennessee what the Von Erichs are to Texas. Lawler's a well-respected, accomplished scientific grappler holding his organization's number-one belt. So what does he do when Kerry extends a hand in friendly respect? He sucker-punches the "Modern-Day Warrior" with a loaded glove! Then, in an interview with Lance Russell, he talks about how Tennesseans had to bail out Texans at the Alamo!

I'm not going to get into a discussion of the respective merits and demerits of Texas and Tennessee. Tennessee is a beautiful state, and Memphis and Nashville have a greater place in music history than any city in the world. However, I *will* say that Jerry "Court-Jester" Lawler has lost my respect. We had come to expect this type of behavior from Lawler's cousin, The Honky Tonk Man, but Lawler's action took everyone here by surprise.

Rest assured, Kerry won't take this lightly. Kerry Von Erich is going to tear Lawler up!

ROB MOORE
Greenville, TX

JUST THE FACTS, MARK!

I am writing to respond to January letter-writer Mark MacKinnon ("WWF Wimps? No Way!"). In his letter, he said that the WWF has the toughest wrestlers. He also wrote that most federations have an over-the-top-rope disqualification rule because their wrestlers are too frail.

I am afraid not, Mr. MacKinnon.

If you happen to look closely, you will see a soft, blue mat covering the floor of any WWF arena. The only reason that there is not a disqualification when wrestlers get thrown over the top is because of that mat.

Mark, it's the *NWA*, not the WWF, that has the roughest wrestling. You talk about "tough guys"? Well, the NWA has 'em. Do you *ever* see a barbed-wire match in the WWF? Do you ever see a dog collar match in the WWF? Of course not! Besides, the WWF censors any show of blood! That's tough?

WES WOODS II
Coeur d'Alene, ID

INCONSISTENCY

I can't believe that the NWA is just going to sit back and let Kevin Sullivan's action against Jimmy Garvin go unpunished. Breaking Garvin's leg with bricks was totally disgusting and has no place in professional wrestling.

Jim Garvin and Precious want to settle their differences with Kevin Sullivan in the ring, but reader Susan Laughlin wants to see some official action taken against Sullivan.

When Dusty Rhodes came to the aid of Magnum T.A., he was suspended and stripped of his U.S.

(Continued on page 70)

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Outrage in the WWF! **HULK HOGAN** is humiliated by **BIG BOSSMAN**

PLUS . . .
THE ROAD WARRIORS' message to **BARRY WINDHAM**: "Leave **STING** alone—he's ours to cripple!" . . . **JERRY LAWLER** threatens *Inside Wrestling* with a lawsuit! . . . It's a double nightmare in the CWA as **DAN DAVIS** takes on **KEN WAYNE** . . . "Hotseat" interview with **SGT. SLAUGHTER**: "I'm back to answer America's call!" . . . **JIM CORNETTE** and **PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY** face off "One On One"

All this and much more . . . in the February 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

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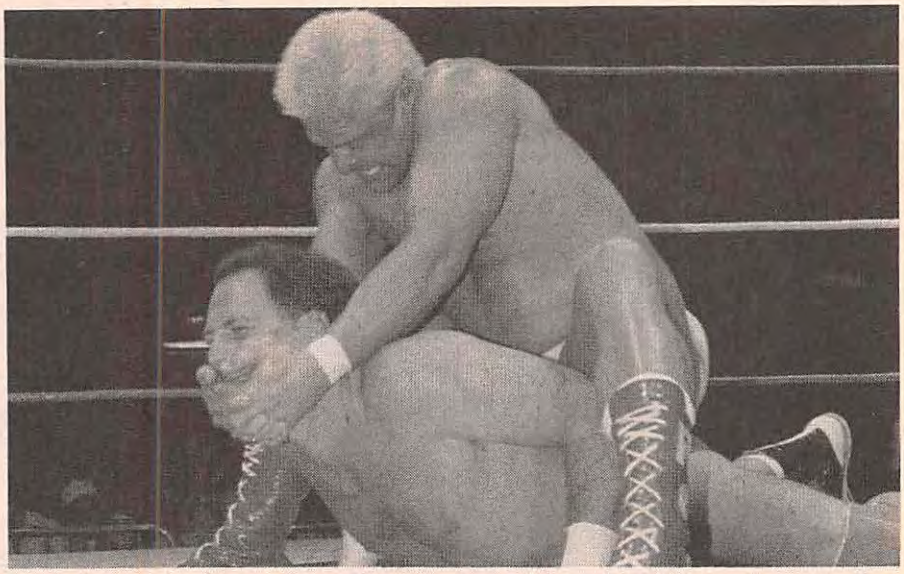
(Continued from page 68)

title. Sullivan broke Garvin's leg and is slapped on the wrist and told not to do it again.

Something is definitely wrong, and action should be taken against Sullivan. I'm sure if punishment is not doled out by the NWA, it will certainly be doled out by Jimmy Garvin once he returns. Get well soon, Jimmy!

SUSAN LAUGHLIN
Switz City, IN



Ronnie Garvin chinlocks Greg Gagne. Garvin has been a fighting AWA TV champion, writes Ryan Perperas, who says that Gagne rarely defended the belt.

TV TRUTH

Finally, there is a true AWA TV champion: Ronnie Garvin has defeated Greg Gagne! Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't a champion supposed to defend the belt, not introduce ESPN's "AWA Classics"? Gagne defended the belt about once every eight weeks, but that's not enough. A real champion should defend his title every week or two.

Even though Garvin used a foreign object to beat Gagne, he is a nationally known wrestler who will defend the belt like a real champion should. Congratulations are due for Ronnie Garvin, the new AWA TV champion!

RYAN PERPERAS
Fairhaven, MA □

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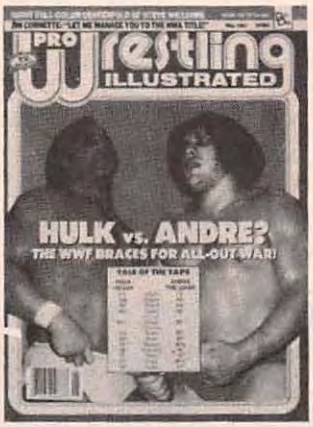

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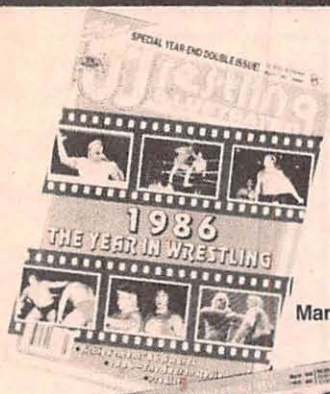

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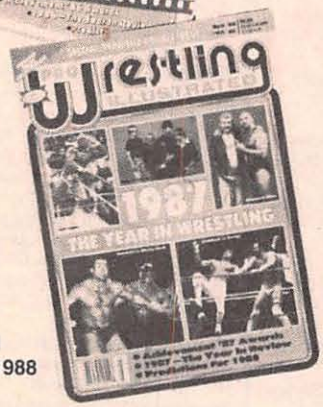

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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

bath from the middle of the ring. Animal and Hawk then turned their attention to Lane, while Cornette tried to get Eaton back to the dressing room for medical attention. Lane was now in deep trouble as the Warriors took advantage of the two-on-one situation with a series of precision tags.

"Sweet" Stan, however, managed to mount a brief comeback, taking on both Warriors with an outstanding karate repertoire. But he was soon overpowered. Seeing his partner in danger, Eaton broke away from Cornette (who was still trying to get him back to the dressing room) and ran to the ring. He grabbed Lane's arm and tagged in. Cornette, afraid that his man would get badly injured, yelled at Eaton to get out of the ring—but Eaton stubbornly refused to listen.

The bloodbath finally ended 30 seconds later when Animal floored the weakened Eaton with a clothesline. Animal covered him for the pin, then celebrated the victory with Hawk and Ellering as the fans booed loudly.

Charges against **Jose Huertas Gonzalez** (also known as **Invader I**) for the stabbing death of **Bruiser Brody** on July 16 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, were reduced from first-degree murder to manslaughter during a November 2 pre-trial hearing before Bayamon District Court Judge **Jose Lino Carrasquillo**.

The pre-trial hearing was set to determine whether there was probable cause to go to trial. Carrasquillo ruled that the prosecution did not have enough evidence to sustain a first-degree murder charge. Gonzalez is currently free on $120,000 bail. The trial is scheduled to begin January 3 with the jury selection process before Judge **Rodolfo Cruz Contreras**.

Barbara Goodish, the widow of Bruiser Brody, and her son Geoffrey are presented with a portrait of Brody during a memorial tribute in Japan.

Gonzalez' defense attorney, **Raul Santiago Merendez**, told the San Juan Star that he does not intend to ask for a continuance and will object if the prosecution asks for another postponement; the pre-trial hearing was postponed three times. Merendez plans to contend that Gonzalez acted in self-defense.

Brody, who was known outside the ring as **Frank Donald Goodish**, died on July 17, approximately eight hours after he was stabbed in the abdomen in the dressing room prior

The trial of Jose Gonzalez, the man accused of murdering Bruiser Brody, is scheduled to begin on January 3.

to a World Wrestling Council card in Bayamon. Gonzalez, 42, was a wrestler and part-owner of Capitol Sports, parent company of the World Wrestling Council.

Only 2,400 fans were on hand for the WWF's second card at the Greensboro Coliseum. Greensboro, North Carolina, has always been a big NWA area, but apparently not too many people were interested in seeing **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** take on **The Rockers**. Blanchard pinned **Marty Jannetty** to

(Continued on page 74)

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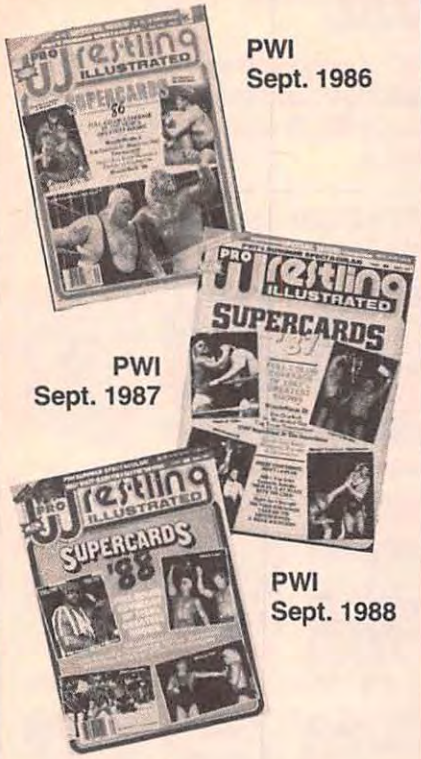

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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 73)

win the match for the former NWA World tag team champs.

Soldat Ustinov and **Teijho Khan** have left the AWA and are reportedly negotiating with Stampede ... **D.J. Peterson** has left the WWF and is now wrestling for **Bob Geigel's** AWA/Central States promotion ... **Warlord**, one-half of **The Powers Of Pain** with **Barbarian**, has been sidelined with a back injury.

Jerry Stubbs and **Tony Anthony** were stripped of the Continental tag belts. During a loser-leave-town match between **Kokina** and **Humongous**, Kokina's manager **Alan Martin** ran into the ring and attacked Humongous. Then, during a

In the CWF, Alan Martin has attacked Humongous in the ring at least twice in an effort to soften him up for his man Kokina.

tag match pitting Stubbs and Anthony against Humongous and **Tim Horner**, Martin ran into the ring once again and hit Humongous with a 2x4. Humongous required 40 stitches to close a cut around his right eye, and Anthony and Stubbs were stripped of the belts—even though they're not managed by Martin! A tournament will be held to determine new champions. Horner, by the way, is rumored to be headed for the WWF.

Johnny Valiant is wrestling for the National Wrestling Federation in western Pennsylvania ... **Mark Starr** recently attacked tag team partner **Dustin Rhodes** in the Florida Championship Wrestling area. Starr is now teaming with **Jim Backlund**. Rhodes, the son of **Dusty Rhodes**, will most likely be teaming with **Mike Graham** for the immediate future ... Central States officials have decided to recognize all AWA titles ... **The Grappler**, who lost the Pacific Northwest title to IWGP champ **Tatsumi Fujinami**, is headed for Japan in an attempt to regain the belt.

The **Stud Stable** has split up! It all started when **Robert Fuller** and **Jimmy Golden** boasted that they deserved a match against AWA World tag champs **Bad Company**. But **Cactus Jack** and **Gary Young**, the CWA tag champs, insisted that **they** deserved the title shot. Fuller then hit Jack from behind with a kendo stick and **Sylvia**, the valet for the Stable, hit **Downtown Bruno** with **another** kendo stick, igniting a four-man battle. When the smoke cleared, Jack was lying in a pool of his own blood, Young was bleeding from the head, and Bruno was unconscious on the floor. So now it's Fuller and Golden, with Sylvia, against Jack and Young, led by Bruno.

Bruno Sammartino and **Capt. Lou Albano** will co-host a night of wrestling at the Westchester County Centre in White Plains, New York, on December 21; proceeds will go to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. **David Sammartino**, **Johnny Valiant**, **The Samoans**, **Rocky Johnson**, **Misty Blue Simmes**, and **Linda Dallas** will appear on the card, which features a match between longtime rivals **The Iron Sheik** and **Sgt. Slaughter**.

Congratulations to **Ron Simmons**, whose number "50" was retired by Florida State University during halftime ceremonies earlier this year. Ron played nose guard for the Seminoles football team from 1977-1980,

Ron Simmons has his football number retired in a halftime ceremony at Florida State University. Simmons played nose guard from 1977-1980 and was a Heisman Trophy candidate.

and is the sixth athlete in Florida State history to have his number retired. That list includes two of the greatest athletes in sports history: NFL star **Fred Biletnikoff** and NBA standout **Dave Cowens**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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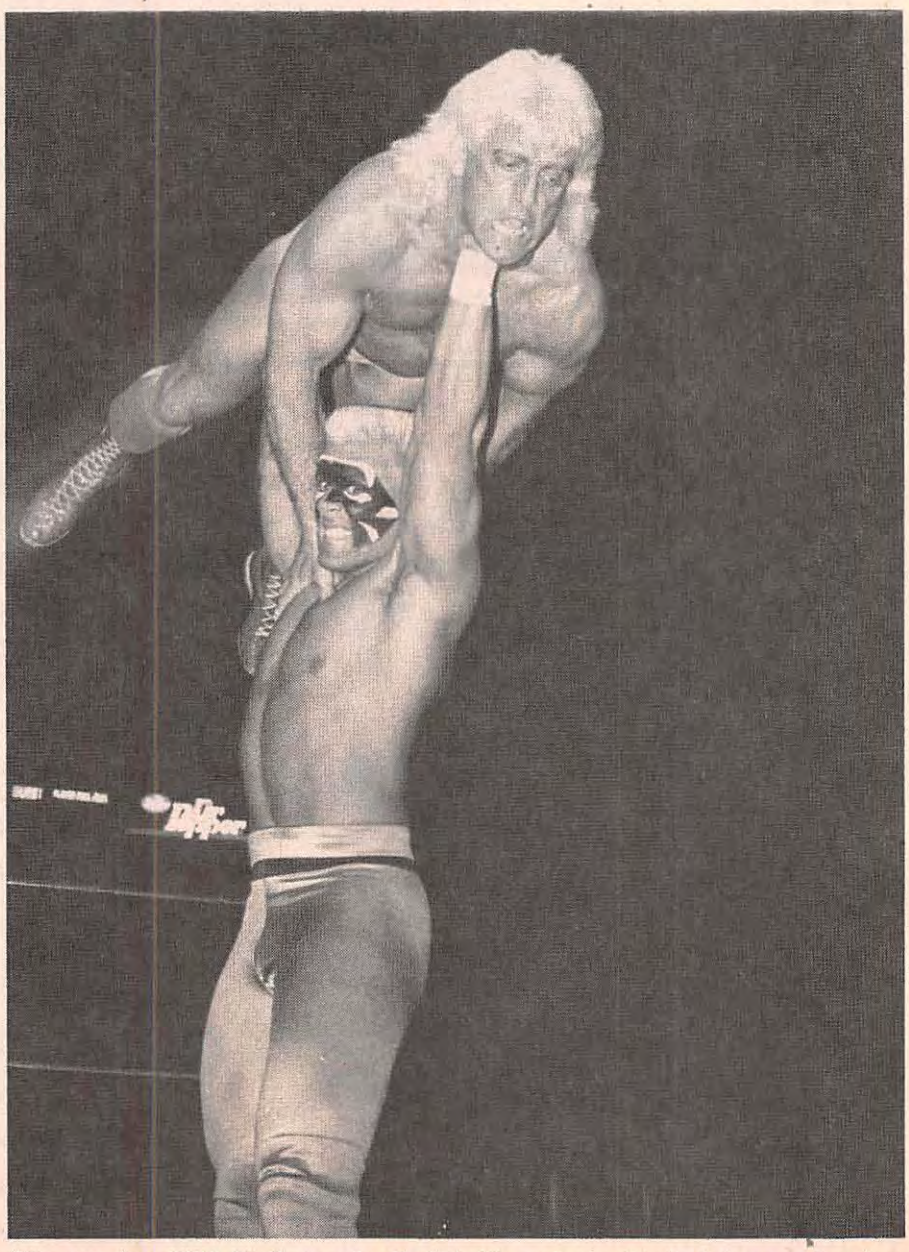
FROM THE DESK OF

(Continued from page 12)

wrestling man) and Petrik (the TV man), the money man can become a major force in the sport.

McMahon, as strong as he has become, is vulnerable. At a time when he is devoting a lot of his resources into projects unrelated to wrestling (a full-length feature movie called *No Holds Barred* and a $12-million investment for the pay-per-view and closed-circuit television rights to the Sugar Ray Leonard-Don Lalonde title fight), he faces the biggest challenges to his reign as promotional kingpin.

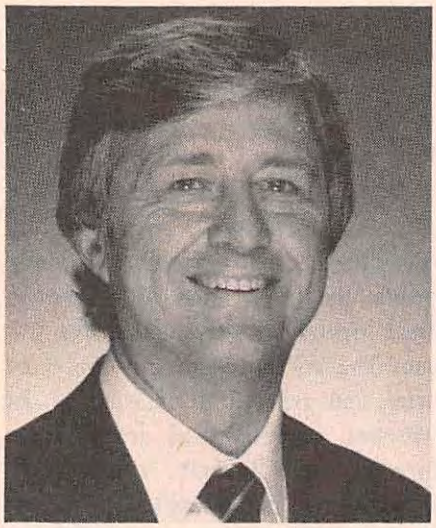
In addition to the Turner acquisition, the WWF will also have to contend with the cooperative venture of the AWA, World Class, CWA, and CWF. While the group has no intention of sniping at the WWF directly, it has national exposure on ESPN, a respected champion in Jerry Lawler, and the resources and brainpower of four very viable organizations. Whether or not the organizations will continue to cooperate (such efforts have a history of failure) is probably very dependent on the success of



Sting press-slams NWA World champion Ric Flair. The contracts of both of these men have been purchased by Turner Broadcasting System as part of its deal with Jim Crockett Promotions.

their SuperClash III pay-per-view venture, which will have taken place by the time this magazine goes on sale. If this group can put on a couple of pay-per-view events a year, and Turner's Universal Wrestling Corporation adds three or four, that will cut into McMahon's pay-per-view business.

Something else I'm sure McMahon is aware of is the ever-present rumor that another financial bigwig is getting ready to back a brand-new wrestling organization. While the rumor cannot be confirmed at this time, it does seem logical. There is room for another first-class promotion in the sport.



Jack Petrik has been named president of the newly formed TBS subsidiary, the Universal Wrestling Corportation.

I am not knocking McMahon. What he has done for the sport from a financial standpoint is undeniable. The fruits of his efforts have been realized by everyone who has been able to survive, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* included. But a WWF monopoly would be disastrous. The consumer is always the big loser when he doesn't have a choice of product. The more viable promotions there are, the better for all of us. Let them fight it out. When all is said and done, it will drive them to give us a better product at a better price.

Vince McMahon has had it too good for too long. The future of wrestling does not belong to him, it belongs to all of us. □

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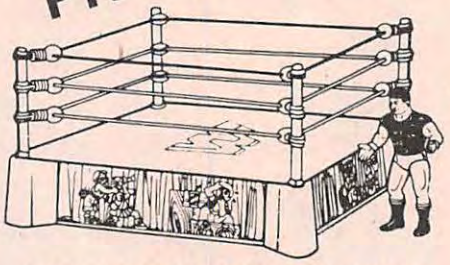

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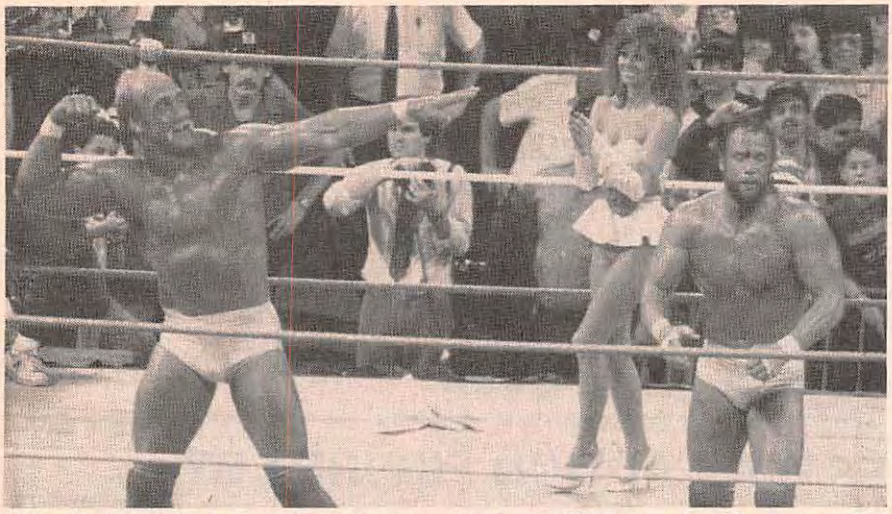


I thought at least Elizabeth would remain uncorrupted by the WWF circus, but after the way Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage used her at SummerSlam, no one is safe from the WWF's slimy reach.

scribing The Honky Tonk Man has raised some eyebrows over at the Italian-American Friendship Committee. Of course, *I* know you're referring to the black clump of petroleum jelly atop Honky Tonk's head that passes for a hairdo, but *they* think you're taking potshots at the heritage. You know how *emotional* Italians can get. To clear the air, Meggie, I've sent them your address. Expect a call soon from two men wearing vested suits and carrying bulky violin cases.

Dear Eddie,

Why do you guys hate Hulk Hogan so much? Okay, the guy is not the best scientific wrestler in the world, but he is the greatest champion of all time. My 83-year-old aunt has even heard of him! Your magazine is the best wrestling magazine I have ever read, but please do not ruin it by putting down Hulk Hogan.

GARY BERTSCH
Cold Spring, KY

Dear Gary,

On behalf of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* please accept our deepest apologies. Certainly it was not the intention of myself or of the editorial staff to offend you or your dottering relative by printing slanderous stories about Hulk Hogan. After all, the intention of this magazine is to *please* you and your wrinkly kin. Whoever said Hogan's neat-looking and *legal* helmet with the rock-hard fist attached (which he uses fairly to *legally* beat up opponents) is an offensive and reprehensible affront to the sport should be sentenced to 40 hours in a steambath with Dusty Rhodes. Gary, if you'd be so kind as to provide us here at *PWI* with a list of stories and topics that you and Aunt Senile approve, you'd cut the length of our tension-filled editorial meetings in half. Would you do that for us, Gary? I knew you would.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

I hope this letter sees print, because I've never felt more strongly about any letter I've ever written.

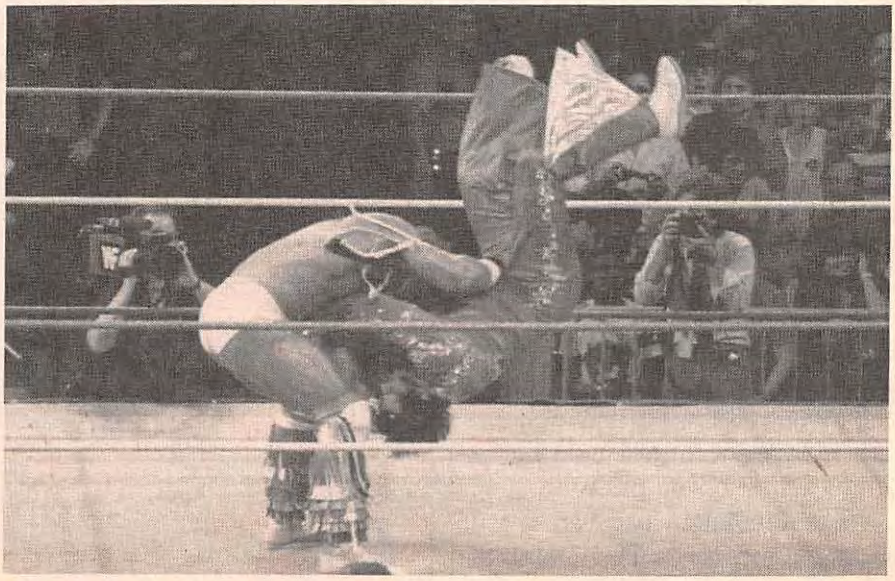
I was hoping for a Megabuck defeat at SummerSlam 88, but the way it was achieved has left a sick taste in my mouth and a growing pain in my stomach. My opinion of the Megapowers and Elizabeth has drastically changed for the worst. The way Elizabeth demeaned herself by ripping off her skirt to distract Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase was insulting to me both as a woman and as a wrestling fan. If Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage are so fantastic, why did they resort to such vulgar and unseemly tactics? I used to think very highly of this trio; now I have hardly any respect for them at all.

Events like this are increasing my devotion to the NWA.

MELISSA GLEASON
Hamilton, OH

Dear Melissa,

A pet dying . . . a spurned first love . . . a lingering illness . . . these are the tragic lessons that rip from our young people the fragile veils of innocence. Dear Melissa has learned one such lesson: The WWF will destroy the character and reputation of each of its wrestlers, even those of near flawless breeding like Elizabeth. Let us pray this unseemly fact doesn't turn Melissa into a hard, calloused, and cynical old witch. As for your stomach pain, child, Pepto Bismol always worked for me. □



Ultimate Warrior slams the hapless Honky Tonk Man, perhaps the worst wrestler ever to hold a major title. Honky Tonk was recently sighted at a K-Mart in Sheboygan.

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April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

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April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

THE WRESTLER

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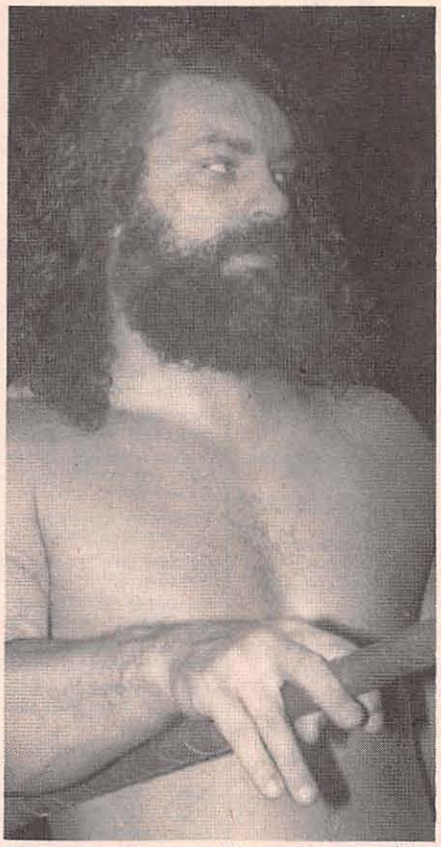


Bruiser Brody was a wildman, but one with a sense of honor and a sense of humor. His murder shocked the wrestling world. He will be missed.

champion after more than four years. Two months later, Randy Savage won the World title.

June 17: Jerry Lawler vs. Terry Taylor. Lawler, the AWA World champion, put his title on the line against World Class Texas titlist Terry Taylor, marking the first time in several years that a World champ has defended his belt against a wrestler from a competing federation. In the coming months, Lawler would engage in a series of title vs. title matches against World Class champ Kerry Von Erich, giving the fans a taste of something they'll surely want more of.

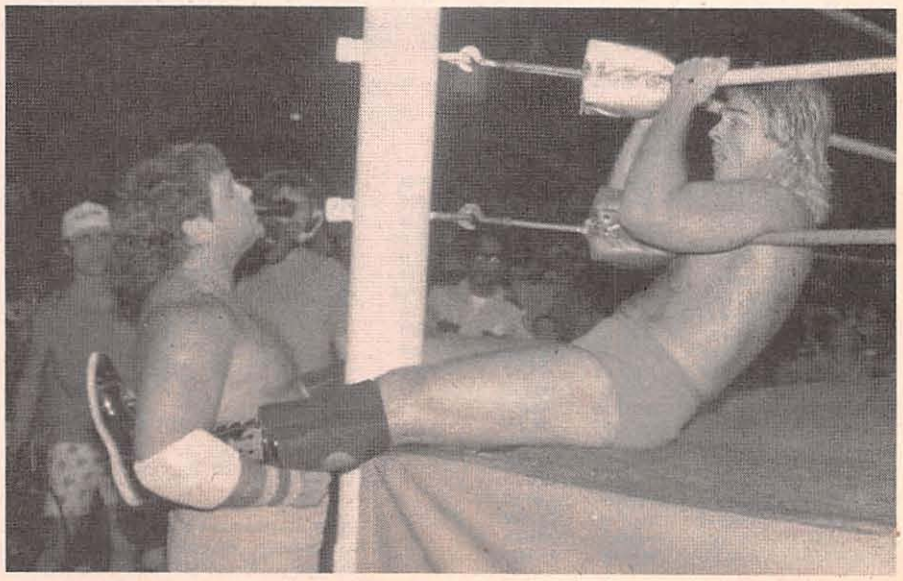
Will wrestling fans continue to settle for the intra-federation diet the WWF and NWA has been feeding them, or has Lawler changed the rules?

For the good of wrestling, let's hope he has.

The death of Bruiser Brody. Brody was stabbed to death in the locker room of Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, a terrible tragedy made more tragic when one considers the words of wrestler Dutch Mantel.

"If a wrestler cannot be safe in a dressing room, where can he be safe?" Mantel said. "It's a sanctuary. That's where our brothers are."

But Brody was allegedly killed by a brother—wrestler Jose Gon-



Jerry Lawler pulls Terry Taylor into the ringpost. Lawler's decision to defend his AWA World title in other federations was one of the most pleasing developments of 1988.

zalez was charged with first-degree murder and is still awaiting arraignment—leaving other wrestlers to wonder who their brothers *really* are and where, if anywhere, they're safe.

Hulk Hogan hoists the "imposter" referee over his head after losing the WWF World title. Despite Hulk's months-long absence, the sport continued to thrive.

Brooke Hogan is born. Hulk and Linda had a baby girl on May 5, Hulk decided to take some time off from wrestling to spend time with his family and work on a film, and the sport lived without him.

"The WWF can do well without Hulk," WWF head Vince McMahon once told me. "The WWF is certainly much larger than any one individual." McMahon turned out to be right. With Randy Savage and Elizabeth leading the way, the WWF drew outstanding crowds during three Hogan-less months. In fact, there was no post-WrestleMania funk this year as there had been in previous years. And when Hogan finally returned, attendance didn't suddenly increase.

Yes, Hogan has had a great influence on wrestling, but the sport is bigger than evén the Hulkster's 24-inch pythons.

It's also much different than it was 365 days ago. Are we ready for 1989? □

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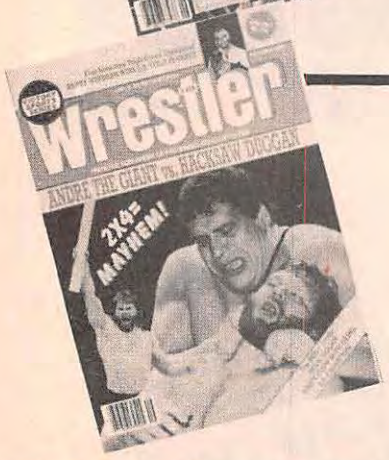

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PWINDEX

Your Wrestler-By-Wrestler Guide To The Previous Year Of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* And Its Sister Publications

Compiled by Gersh Kuntzman

THIS YEAR'S "PWINDEX" might very well be the most important segment of this year-end issue. Using the "PWIndex," you can accurately review the news stories and features that shaped the year in wrestling. Just look up your favorite wrestlers (or tag teams) and use the key that appears on each page of the index to determine where the articles appeared.

The "PWIndex" cross-references stories not only from *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, but from the other great magazines in our family: *Inside Wrestling, The Wrestler, Wrestling Superstars, Sports Review Wrestling,* and *Wrestling 88*. All issues of these titles with 1988 cover dates have been indexed.

Using the "PWIndex" is the only way to completely review all of this year's top stories. You'll find that it will serve you as a valuable reference tool not only now, but in future years when you want to look back on the events of 1988. Enjoy.

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KEY: PWI = *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, TW = *The Wrestler*, INW = *Inside Wrestling*, SRW = *Sports Review Wrestling*, WR8 = *Wrestling 88*, WSS = *Wrestling Superstars*. Numbers correspond to month of publication; 1 = January, 2 = February, etc. For quarterlies, A = Spring, B = Summer, C = Fall, D = Winter.

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- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
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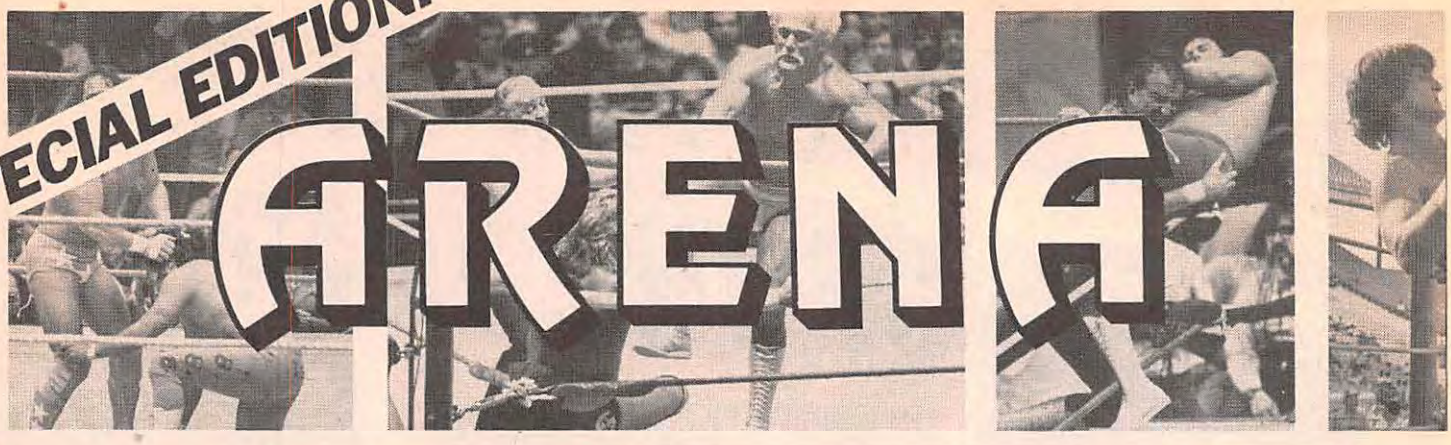


This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.*

THE CARDS OF THE YEAR—A RETROSPECTIVE: With this being the special year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* we're going to stray from our usual "Arena Reports" format to look back at the results of many of the major events that made 1988 a year to remember for wrestling fans.

WRESTLEMANIA IV—ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER (March 27, Atlantic City, NJ): *WWF WORLD TITLE TOURNAMENT, FIRST ROUND:* **Ted DiBiase** pinned **Hacksaw Duggan** . . . **Don Muraco** defeated **Dino Bravo** by disqualification . . . **Greg Valentine** pinned **Rick Steamboat** . . . **Randy Savage** pinned **Butch Reed** . . . **One Man Gang** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** by countout . . . **Rick Rude** and **Jake Roberts** battled to a time-limit draw. *SECOND ROUND:* **Andre the Giant** and **Hulk Hogan** battled to a double-disqualification . . . **Ted DiBiase** pinned **Don Muraco** . . . **Randy Savage** pinned **Greg Valentine.** *SEMIFINAL:* **Randy Savage** defeated **One Man Gang** by disqualification. *FINAL:* **Randy Savage** pinned **Ted DiBiase** when **Hulk Hogan** interfered . . . In other matches, **Bad News Brown** eliminated **Bret Hart** to win a 20-man battle royal . . . **The Ultimate Warrior** pinned **Hercules Hernandez** . . . **Brutus Beefcake** downed **The Honky Tonk Man** by disqualification . . . **Bobby Heenan** & **The Islanders** defeated **Koko B. Ware** & **The British Bulldogs** . . . **Demolition** defeated **Rick Martel** & **Tito Santana** for the WWF World tag team belts.

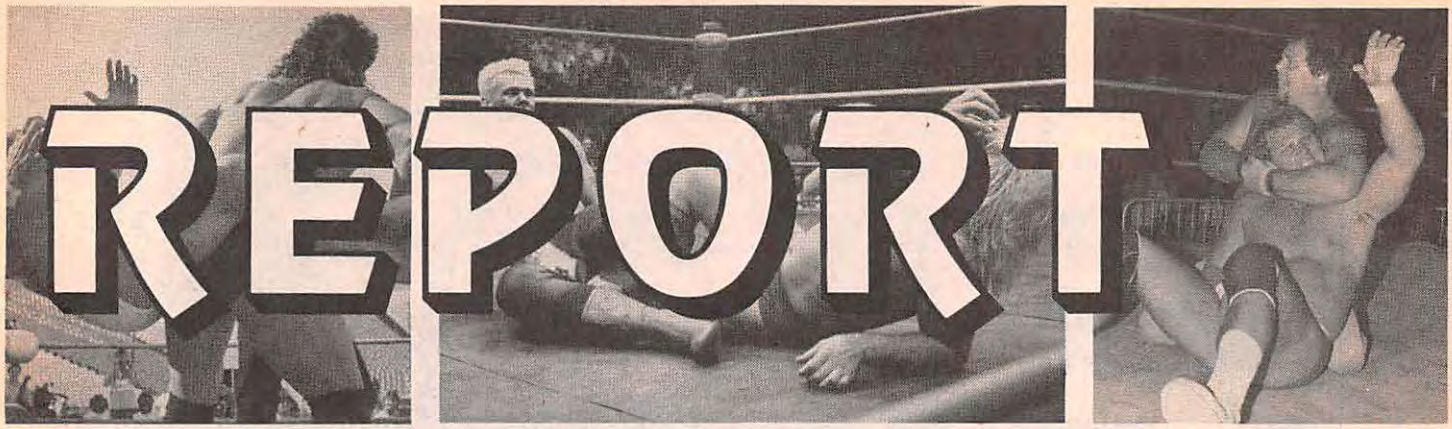
CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS—GREENSBORO COLISEUM (March 27, Greensboro, North Carolina): **Mike Rotundo** pinned **Jim Garvin** . . . **The Midnight Express** defeated **The Fantastics** by disqualification . . . **Dusty Rhodes** & **The Road Warriors** defeated **Ivan Koloff, The Warlord,** & **The Barbarian** by disqualification in a barbed wire match . . . **Lex Luger** & **Barry Windham** defeated **Arn Anderson** & **Tully Blanchard** for the NWA World tag team championship . . . **Ric Flair** battled **Sting** to a 45-minute draw.

RAGE IN THE CAGE II—THE SHOWBOAT SPORTS PAVILION (April 16, Las Vegas, NV): **Wahoo McDaniel** pinned **Curt Hennig** in a non-title cage match . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** and **The Nasty Boys** battled to a double-disqualification . . . **Soldat Ustinov** & **Teijho Khan** defeated **Ray Stevens** & **Baron Von Raschke** . . . **Greg Gagne** lost to **Paul Diamond** by disqualification . . . **Ricky Rice** beat **Brian Knobbs** by disqualification . . . **Mario Soto** beat **Ricky Ataki.**

JIM CROCKETT SR. MEMORIAL CUP TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT—GREENVILLE COLISEUM (April 22, Greenville, NC): *FIRST ROUND:* **Kendall Windham** & **The Italian Stallion** defeated **The Terminator** & **The Green Machine** by forfeit . . . **Ivan Koloff** & **Dick Murdoch** defeated **Mighty Wilbur** & **Jimmy Valiant** . . . **Pez Whatley** & **Tiger Conway Jr.** defeated **Nelson Royal** & **Rocky King** . . . **Chris Champion** & **Mark Starr** defeated **The Mexican Twin Devils** . . . **Tim Horner** & **Brad Armstrong** defeated **Johnny Ace** & **John Savage** . . . **The Sheepherders** beat **The Cruel Connection** . . . **Al Perez** & **Larry Zbyszko** defeated **Joe Cruz** & **Ricky Santana** . . . **Mike Rotundo** & **Rick Steiner** defeated **Ron Simmons** & **Steve Williams.** *SECOND ROUND:* **Tully Blanchard** & **Arn Anderson** defeated **Kendall Windham** & **Italian Stallion** . . . **Sting** & **Lex Luger** beat **Dick Murdoch** & **Ivan Koloff** . . . **The Road Warriors** defeated **Tiger Conway Jr.** & **Pez Whatley** . . . **The Barbarian** & **The Warlord** beat **Mark Starr** & **Chris Champion** . . . **The Sheepherders** downed **Tim Horner** & **Brad Armstrong** . . . **The Fantastics** defeated **Al Perez** & **Larry Zbyszko** . . . **The Midnight Express** defeated **The Sheepherders** . . . In a special "Prince of Darkness" match, **Jim Garvin** pinned **Kevin Sullivan.**

JIM CROCKETT SR. MEMORIAL CUP TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT—GREENSBORO COLISEUM (April 23, Greensboro, NC): *QUARTERFINALS:* **The Fantastics** defeated **Mike Rotundo** & **Rick Steiner . . . Sting** & **Lex Luger** defeated **The Midnight Express** . . . **The Barbarian** & **The Warlord** defeated **The Road Warriors.** *SEMIFINALS:* **Sting** & **Lex Luger** defeated **The Barbarian** & **The Warlord** . . . **Tully Blanchard** & **Arn Anderson** defeated **The Fantastics.** *FINAL:* **Sting** & **Lex Luger** defeated **Tully Blanchard** & **Arn Anderson** when Luger pinned Anderson . . . In a bullrope match, **The Midnight Rider** pinned **J.J. Dillon** . . . In an NWA World title match, **Nikita Koloff** defeated **Ric Flair** by disqualification.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS—TEXAS STADIUM (May 8, Irving, TX): **Missing Link** & **Jason Sterling** defeated



Vince Apollo & **The Angel of Death** ... **Mike George** pinned **Jeff Raitz** ... **Steve Casey** pinned **Eric Embry** ... **Wild Bill Irwin** lost to **Black Bart** by disqualification ... **Terry Gordy** defeated **Michael Hayes** in a "Triple Dome of Terror" match ... **Terry Taylor** pinned **Chris Adams** ... A "Triple Dome" Texas roundup was won by **Steven Casey**, **Jason Sterling**, and **John Tatum** ... **Bruiser Brody** & **Kevin Von Erich** defeated **Buddy Roberts** & a masked mystery partner ... **Terry Gordy** & **Steve Simpson** defeated **Jack Victory** & **John Tatum** by disqualification ... **Kerry Von Erich** defeated **Iceman Parsons** for the World Class championship.

RENEGADE RAMPAGE FINALS—MID-SOUTH COLISEUM (June 6, Memphis, TN): **Robert Fuller** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Scott Steiner** defeated **Gary Young** ... **Scott Steiner** defeated **Robert Fuller** for the Renegade Rampage championship and $250,000 ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Curt Hennig** by disqualification ... **Don Bass** & **Gary Young** defeated **Scott Steiner** & **Billy Travis** for the CWA tag team title.

GREAT AMERICAN BASH #1—ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER (June 26, Orlando, FL): **Dusty Rhodes**, **Lex Luger**, **Paul Ellering**, & **The Road Warriors** defeated **Ric Flair**, **Barry Windham**, **Tully Blanchard**, **Arn Anderson**, & **J.J. Dillon** in a "War Games" match when Rhodes made Dillon submit with a figure-four leglock ... **Al Perez** beat **Nikita Koloff** in a death match ... **Sting** defeated **Mike Rotundo** by disqualification when **Rick Steiner** interfered ... **Kevin Sullivan** lost to **Steve Williams** by disqualification ... **The Fantastics** beat **The Midnight Express** in a "10 Lashes To The Loser" match, after which **Stan Lane**, **Bobby Eaton**, and manager **Jim Cornette** were lashed with a belt ... **Larry Zbyszko** thrashed **Bugsy McGraw** ... **Russian Assassin I** & **Ivan Koloff** defeated **Ronnie** & **Jimmy Garvin** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Sheepherders**.

WORLD CLASS SPECTACULAR—THE SPORTATORIUM (July 4, Dallas, TX): **Kerry Von Erich** defeated **Kamala** by disqualification ... **Michael Hayes** defeated **Buddy Roberts** in a coal miner's glove match ... **Kevin Von Erich** defeated **Terry Taylor** by default to win the World Class Texas title ... **Jack Victory** & **John Tatum** lost to **Steve** & **Shaun Simpson** ... **Bill Irwin** defeated **Black Bart** in a bullrope match ... **Eric Embry** destroyed **Jason Sterling**.

GREAT AMERICAN BASH—BALTIMORE ARENA (July 10, Baltimore, MD): **Ric Flair** defeated **Lex Luger** by official decision of the Maryland State Athletic Commission ... **Barry Windham** defeated **Dusty Rhodes** after **Ron Garvin** interfered ... **Sting** & **Nikita Koloff** battled **Arn Anderson** & **Tully Blanchard** to a time-limit draw ... **Russian Assassin I**, **Ivan Koloff**, **Al Perez**, **Mike Rotundo**, & **Kevin Sullivan** dropped a "Tower of Doom" match to **The Road Warriors**, **Ron Garvin**, **Steve Williams**, & **Jimmy Garvin** ... **The Midnight Express** defeated **The Fantastics** for the NWA U.S. tag team title ... **Dick Murdoch** & **Rick Steiner** beat **Kendall Windham** & **Tim Horner** when Murdoch pinned Windham.

WRESTLEFEST 88—MILWAUKEE COUNTY STADIUM (July 31, Milwaukee, WI): **Big Bossman** pinned **Scott Casey** ... **Brutus Beefcake** pinned **Hercules Hernandez** ... **The Rougeaus** destroyed **The Killer Bees** ... **Bad News Brown** pinned **Bret Hart** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** lost to **Hacksaw Duggan** by disqualification ... **The Powers of Pain** throttled **The Bolsheviks** ... **Jim Neidhart** pinned **Lanny Poffo** ... **Randy Savage** pinned **Ted DiBiase** ... **Curt Hennig** destroyed **Terry Taylor** ... **King Haku** beat **Sam Houston** ... **Bobby Heenan** lost to **The Ultimate Warrior** by submission and was stuffed into a weasel outfit ... **Demolition** mashed **The British Bulldogs** ... **Dino Bravo** pinned **Ken Patera** ... **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Andre the Giant** in a steel cage match.

SUMMERSLAM 88—MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (August 29, New York): **Randy Savage** & **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Andre the Giant** & **Ted DiBiase** ... **Demolition** defeated **The Hart Foundation** ... **The Ultimate Warrior** trashed **The Honky Tonk Man** in 31 seconds to win the WWF Intercontinental title ... **Jake Roberts** pinned **Hercules** ... **The British Bulldogs** and **The Rougeaus** battled to a time-limit draw ... **The Warlord** & **The Barbarian** squashed **The Bolsheviks** ... **Big Bossman** slammed **Koko B. Ware** ... **Bad News Brown** pinned **Ken Patera** ... **Dino Bravo** pinned **Don Muraco** ... **Junkyard Dog** lost to **Rick Rude** by disqualification.

KING OF THE RING TOURNAMENT—PROVIDENCE CIVIC CENTER (October 16, Providence, RI): *FIRST ROUND:* **Ken Patera** defeated **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Ted DiBiase** beat **Brutus Beefcake** ... **Hercules Hernandez** wrestled **Bad News Brown** to a double-countout ... **Randy Savage** pinned **Virgil** ... **Ron Bass** defeated **The Barbarian** by disqualification ... **Shawn Michaels** destroyed **Danny Davis** ... **Terry Taylor** beat **Marty Jannetty** ... **Iron Mike Sharpe** upset **Boris Zukhov**. *SECOND ROUND:* **Randy Savage** received a bye ... **Ron Bass** trounced **Shawn Michaels** ... **Ted DiBiase** defeated **Ken Patera** ... **Terry Taylor** defeated **Iron Mike Sharpe** by submission. *SEMIFINAL:* **Randy Savage** pinned **Terry Taylor**. *FINAL:* **Ted DiBiase** defeated **Randy Savage** by countout. □

VOLUME IX No. 12 DECEMBER 1988

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

SIGNED AND SEALED!

Turner Broadcasting System Buys Controlling Interest In NWA

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

ATLANTA—Controlling interest in the NWA was sold by Jim Crockett Promotions to Turner Broadcasting System in early November, completing a deal that had been in the works for six months. Turner officials refused to disclose financial details of the sale.

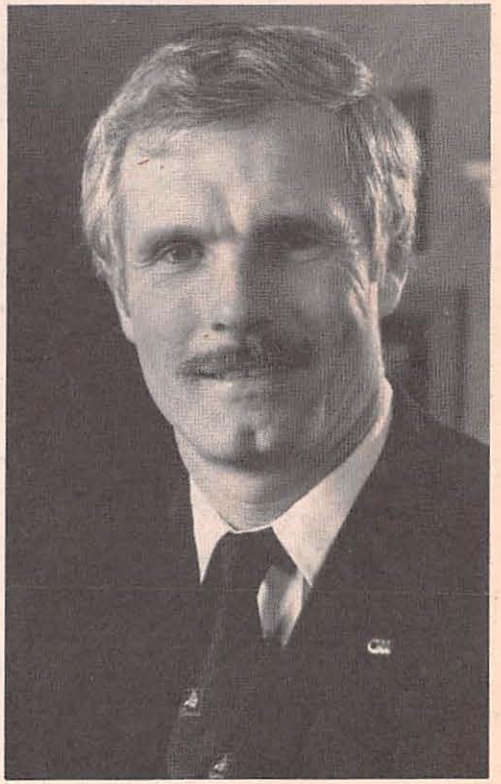
Ted Turner, TBS Board Chairman and President, immediately announced the formation of Universal Wrestling Corporation, a subsidiary of TBS that will run the NWA. Under terms of the agreement, Universal Wrestling Corporation has obtained Crockett Promotions' programing operations and the contracts of all NWA wrestlers.

Universal Wrestling Corporation will also supervise production of all NWA TV shows, produce programs for international home video distribution and pay-per-view events, and oversee NWA arena promotions.

TBS Vice President of Syndication Jack Petrik was named President of Universal Wrestling Corporation; Jim Crockett will serve as vice president.

"We're really ensuring the future of wrestling for TBS," Petrik said. "The purpose of buying out Jim Crockett Promotions was to ensure the future of wrestling on the SuperStation. It's a very important part of our programing schedule.

"We wouldn't take it over if we didn't think it was in good shape. The NWA has a good lineup of wrestlers and they've all come aboard with us. We think we can improve it—not only what's in the ring, but the promotional aspect, too. We have lots of assets we can draw upon."

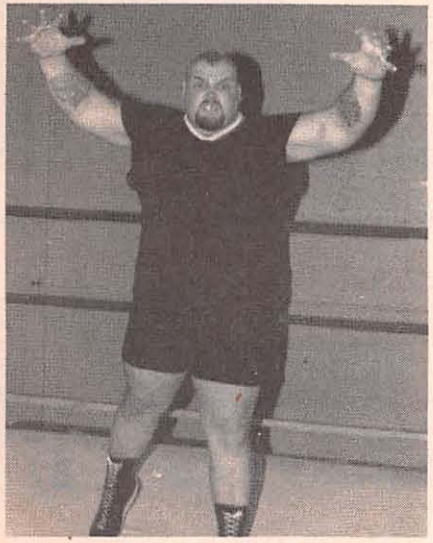


After months of negotiation, Ted Turner has bought the NWA from Jim Crockett Promotions.

Bigelow Makes Bid For U.S. Title

By GERSH KUNTZMAN

SAVANNAH, GA—Bam Bam Bigelow began his all-out assault on Barry Windham's U.S. title here but suffered a temporary setback when he was beaten by countout. But Oliver Humperdink, Bigelow's manager, said that this was just a tune-up for an inevitable Bigelow victory.



Bam Bam Bigelow has his eyes on Barry Windham's U.S. title.

"It's only a matter of time," Humperdink said. "You're talking about the biggest, strongest, most ferocious, most talented wrestler in the world, a former bounty hunter, a man who has taken on the best competition there is all around the world."

Upon his arrival in the NWA, Bigelow targeted Windham as his first step toward eventually becoming World champion. "The goal is the top," Bigelow said, "but I plan on doing it the right way. Once I get rid of Windham, I'll take care of Flair."

Ronnie Garvin Signs With WWF

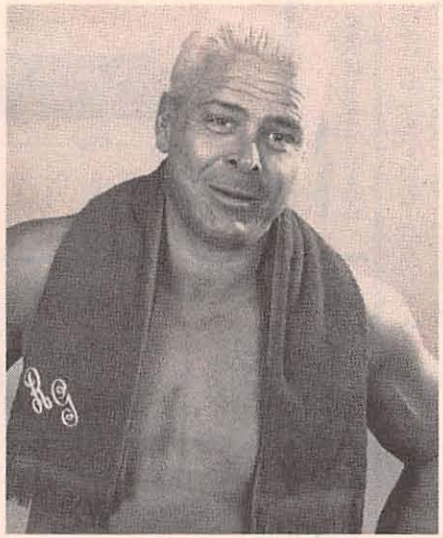
By BILL APTER

GREENWICH, CT—Former NWA World champion Ronnie Garvin has signed a contract with the World Wrestling Federation and is expected to begin wrestling there in late December. Details of the contract were not available at press time.

"The big man is going to the big time," Garvin told "Wrestling Enquirer," "and if you want to know why I'm doing it, it's very simple: money. I don't care about the AWA TV title, I don't care about Greg Gagne, I don't care about anything except that I'm about to become a very rich man."

Garvin held the AWA TV belt at the time he signed the WWF contract. He said he will fulfill his remaining obligations with the AWA, including a title defense against Greg Gagne at the December 13 SuperClash III card in Chicago. Garvin was also scheduled to appear in the WWC Universal title tournament on Thanksgiving Day in Puerto Rico.

One of Garvin's main goals in the WWF will be to become the second man in history to win both the WWF and NWA World titles. Garvin held the NWA belt late last year; Buddy Rogers was NWA champ in 1961 and WWF champ when the federation was first formed in 1963.



Former NWA World champion Ronnie Garvin has signed with the WWF.

Sheik/DeBeers Align To Destroy U.S.

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

MINNEAPOLIS—The Iron Sheik and Col. DeBeers have formed an alliance dedicated to the destruction of all United States-born wrestlers, and have made Sgt. Slaughter their main target for destruction.

"Slaughter is dead meat," said DeBeers. "Now that Sheik and I are together, it's all over for Slaughter and the dirty U.S. Marine Corps. You name one time in history that a country has been able to withstand an attack by Iranians and South Africans. Slaughter knows we can't be beaten."

Sheik and DeBeers have yet to team, choosing instead to meet Slaughter in a series of one-on-one matches designed to wear him down. Slaughter is scheduled to meet The Iron Sheik on November 26 in Minneapolis and December 21 in White Plains, New York; DeBeers and Slaughter are scheduled for a showdown at the December 13 SuperClash III card.

"Slaughter Sergeant know that he cannot beat Iranian," Sheik said. "He do not have strength and brain enough to beat me. We will beat him and show stupid American fans that Iran is number one!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Officials of the Soviet Council on the Control and Development of Athletics condemned Jim Crockett Promotions and Turner Broadcasting for the sale of the National Wrestling Alliance. "It is the highest form of capitalist tomfoolery," said senior member Valey Kharnovsky. "Mr. Crockett has taken a respected organization and sold it simply for the almighty dollar. Mr. Ted Turner has done what he always does: buy and sell people and things. We will now think twice before sending our athletes to the United States to wrestle in the NWA if they put so little value in their organization."

TOKYO, JAPAN

Reaction to the sale of the NWA to Turner Broadcasting was generally positive here as many wrestling fans expressed hope that NWA champions would return to a policy of defending their belts in Japan. "That would be good for the NWA, good for Japan, and good for the entire sport," said Usaki Tukamoto of Tokyo. "It has been many years since we saw an NWA title defended here." An NWA championship has not been won or lost in Japan since Ric Flair regained the World title from Kerry Von Erich on May 24, 1984, in Yokosuka City.

LONDON, ENGLAND

Now that the NWA is in the hands of internationally known millionaire Ted Turner, sports officials here are hoping to arrange an NWA tour of Great Britain in early 1989. The WWF has run several cards in Europe over the past two years and broadcasts several weekly shows on British TV. "There's an untapped audience here," said "Enquirer" correspondent Emile O'Tourry.

THE *PWI* POLL

Each month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will conduct a poll on a controversial issue in the sport today. The results present a multifaceted view of public opinion that offers valuable insights into the views of your fellow fans

THE SUBJECT: THE OUTLOOK FOR '89

WHILE THE PAGES of this year-end spectacular are crammed with recaps, reviews, and reflections from the year in wrestling, we thought we'd devote this month's "*PWI* Poll" to a preview of the year ahead.

To find out the fans' thoughts about the direction some of wrestling's most prominent trends will take in 1989, we called 1,000 *PWI* subscribers (culled from subscription lists; statistical margin of error plus or minus three percent) and asked their opinion on six far-reaching questions.

Fans hold a great deal of confidence in the NWA's outlook for 1989, asserting that a few losses of talent would not bring about the end of the federation. In fact, a strong majority—65 percent—of those surveyed said the NWA would not suffer as the result of losing major names to a rival promotion.

The NWA's main rival—the WWF—has been the prime culprit in the NWA's loss of talent. But as big as the WWF has grown, and as big as fans feel it will get in the coming months, only 31 percent feel that it will grow enough in size to overshadow all other promotions; a healthy 59 percent maintain that even though the WWF will continue expansion, there will still be plenty of room for other promotions.

When asked about the AWA, most fans—a whopping 84 percent—hoped that cooperation between the AWA and other federations would continue in 1989. It is that cooperation, spearheaded by AWA World champion Jerry Lawler, that helped make "The King" 1988's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year.

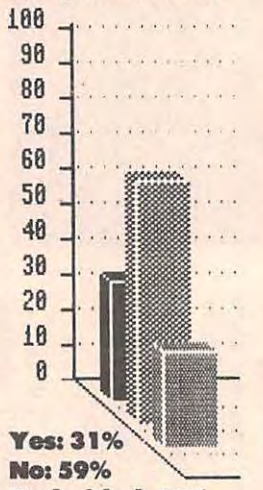
Since women's wrestling appeared to make a comeback in 1988 (particularly in the Rookie of the Year voting), we asked fans where they feel this aspect of the sport will go in 1989. Women's wrestling reached a peak of popularity in 1984, and fully 73 percent of fans believe 1989 will see the ladies enjoy that kind of intense popularity once more.

Pay-per-view TV is a vital instrument of wrestling's continued expansion. Although there were an unprecedented number of pay-per-view events (seven) in 1988, 51 percent of fans polled believed that there would be even more in 1989. On the other hand, 48 percent of those polled believe the amount of wrestling on free TV will actually decrease in 1989.□

Will the NWA suffer from the loss of big-name talent?

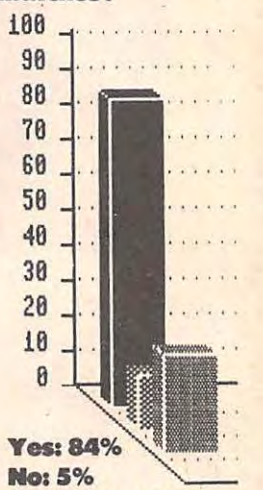
Yes: 32%
No: 65%
Undecided: 3%

Will the WWF continue to expand until it overshadows all other promotions?



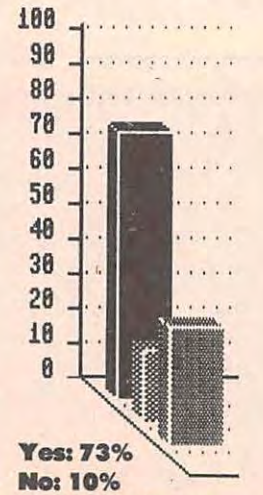
Yes: 31%
No: 59%
Undecided: 10%

Should the AWA continue interfederational matches?



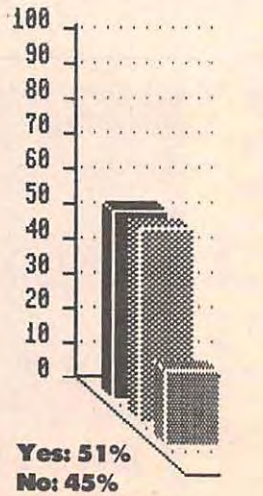
Yes: 84%
No: 5%
Undecided 11%

Will women's wrestling return to the popularity it enjoyed in 1984?



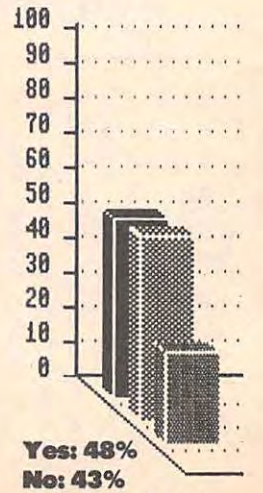
Yes: 73%
No: 10%
Undecided: 17%

Will there be more pay-per-view events in 1989?



Yes: 51%
No: 45%
Undecided: 4%

Will the amount of wrestling on free TV decrease in 1989?



Yes: 48%
No: 43%
Undecided: 9%

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- The Von Erichs vs. The Freebirds
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	5479	Adrian Adonis		5603	Rick Martel
	5449	Harley Race		5421	"New" Tito Santana (not pictured)
	5598	Vince McMahon		5619	Billy Jack Haynes
	5462	Koko B Ware		5528	The Referee
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	5477	Jake the Snake Roberts		5527	Johnny Valiant
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